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CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

JULY 14, 1945



The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

for RETAILER - WHOLESALER - MANUFACTURER

Established 1859

28 Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C.2

Registered as a Newspaper

3414
GXIV

JULY 14, 1945

Annual Subscription (with
Diary) 25/- Single copies 6d.



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PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES (MAY & BAKER) LTD., DAGENHAM

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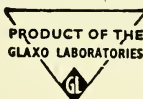
Ostermilk is a roller-dried milk food of standardised composition ; it is bacteriologically safe and contains added iron and vitamin D. Ostermilk No. 1 with reduced fat and protein and an increased lactose content is suitable for infants up to three months ; Ostermilk No. 2 is a full cream food for older infants.

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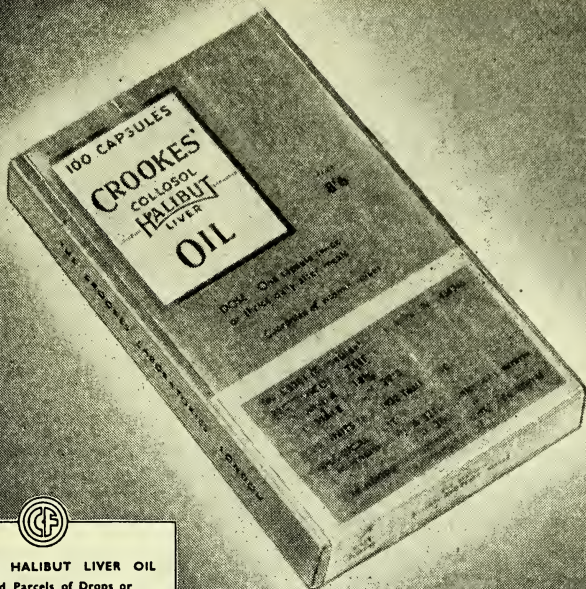
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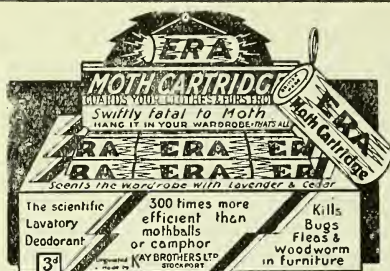
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FOR INJECTION (I.M.)

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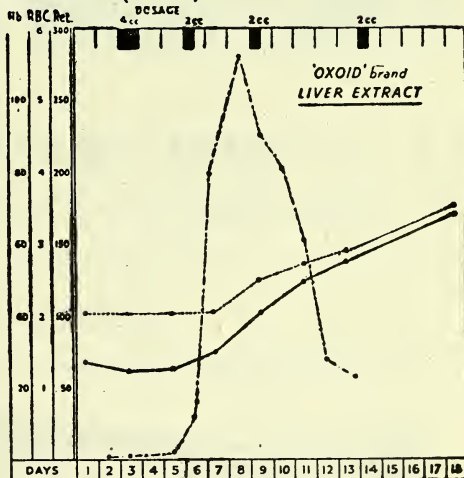
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KEY TO GRAPH.

- Haemoglobin per cent.
- Red blood corpuscles in millions.
- Reticulocytes per 100 red cells.

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PATA



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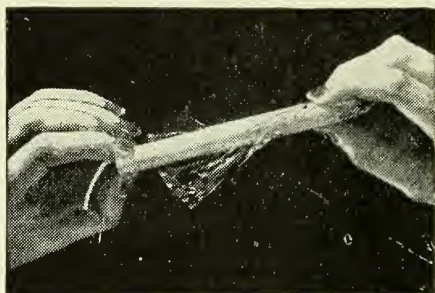


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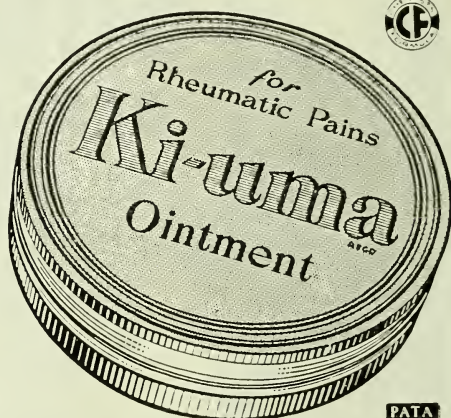
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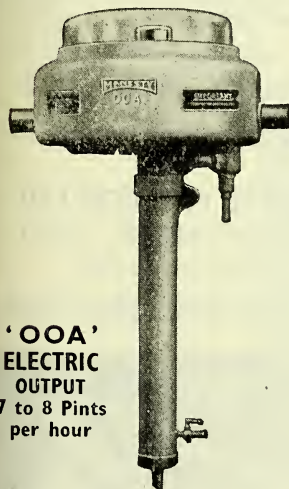


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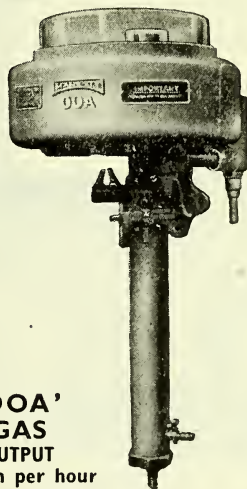
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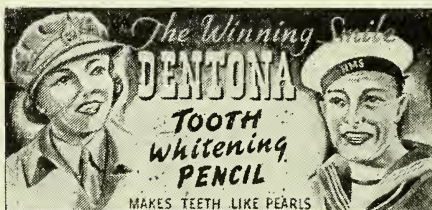
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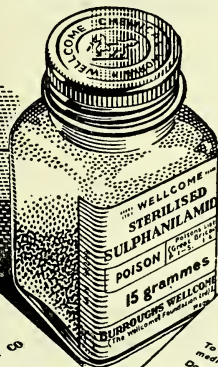
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NEWS OF THE WEEK

Key Industry Duties.—The Treasury has made an Order exempting a range of articles, including many chemicals, from Key Industry Duty from July 1 to December 31, 1945.

Records Destroyed by Fire.—A fire at the premises of Cresswell Bros. & Marks International Sponge Importers, Ltd.), on July 11, destroyed most of the company's records, orders and correspondence. Clients who have been in correspondence with the company recently are asked to send full particulars to the temporary offices, 20 Emerald Street, Holborn, London, W.C.1. All letters will then be dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

Official Thanks to C.P.W.C.—The following is the text of a letter from the Minister of Health (Mr. Henry Willink) addressed to the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain:—

"Now that the war in Europe is won I wish to offer to your Committee my sincere thanks for their assistance during the past years. The Committee have never failed to appreciate the

vital dependence of the Nation's war effort upon problems of man-power, and the Government have been fortunate in being able to avail themselves of the help of the Committee in determining the manner and extent to which the pharmaceutical profession should make its contribution to the Armed Forces. In addressing themselves to their task the Committee have placed the Nation's needs above all other considerations and have helped to provide the Forces with personnel to the maximum number possible without dangerously depleting the civilian service. They have indeed made a positive contribution to victory. I am well aware what heavy demands this war has made upon the time and energies both of the Central and of the District Committees, and I deeply appreciate their help."

Brighton Annual Meeting.—Brighton and Hove Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society held its annual meeting on July 3, Mr. W. L. Chatfield presiding. Mr. Donald Hudson gave a report on the recent conference on the projected National Health Service, and a presentation of fountain pens and writing cases was made to four members of the Ladies' Committee (Mrs. C. Brumwell,

Mrs. Donald Hudson, Mrs. F. Lewis Watson and Mrs. Arch Wilson). Mr. S. F. George, Portslade, was elected *Chairman* for the year, Mr. Edgar Jones continuing as *Secretary*, and Miss Nora Bines and Mr. Birch were elected to the *Committee*. Films showing the incidence, recognition and treatment of scabies, and a horticultural film dealing with the white-fly pest on tomatoes, were shown.

Silver Wedding Reception.—Some seventy people gathered at a reception, dinner and dance to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. S. R. Mansfield, a director of Polak & Schwarz (Eng.), Ltd., on July 3.

Research Fellowships.—The University Court of Glasgow has approved the appointment of Dr. W. J. O. Orr and Dr. J. D. P. Graham as I.C.I. Research Fellows in chemistry and pharmacology respectively.

Luncheon to Pharmacist Prisoners-of-war.—Some 100 returned British and Dominion prisoner-of-war pharmacists are being invited to luncheon and a theatre in London by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

Works Visit.—The production of hot-water bottles and other rubber equipment of interest to the retail trade was demonstrated by the North British Rubber Co., Ltd., to the Glasgow and District Industrial Accident Prevention Group recently.

Women Pharmacists at Conference.—The president of the National Association of Women Pharmacists (Miss Mozley-Stark) and members of the committee will be pleased to meet at the British Pharmaceutical Conference luncheon any women pharmacists who are attending.

Empty Berlin Pharmacies.—Conditions in Berlin were described by a Moscow radio correspondent, recently. He said: "I went into a chemist's shop. I found most of the wares 'ersatz.' When I asked if they had any articles for everyday use, such as soap or vitamin extracts, I was told that there would be no real soap for a long time. There had been no vitamin extracts since the beginning of the war."

Manchester Junior Branch Officers.—At the June meeting of the executive of the Junior Branch of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, the following officers were elected for the 1945-46 session: *Chairman*, Mr. H. Burlinson, Ph.C.; *Vice-chairman*, Mr. T. S. Jones; *Treasurer*, Miss B. Morrison; *Assistant Secretary*, Miss I. F. A. Lewis; *Secretary*, Mr. J. Tomlinson, c/o J. Brooks & Co., Ltd., Shudehill, Manchester, 4.

U.S. Penicillin for All Markets.—A statement by the United States Foreign Economic Administration announces that penicillin is now available for export commercially from the United States to all areas. The amount available for each country being decided by the Administration. Since June 1944, when token quantities were sent to nineteen foreign countries, the amount of U.S. penicillin distributed abroad has increased 700 per cent. Forty-three countries are now in receipt of supplies.

Edinburgh Employers' Resettlement Office.—Members of Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce have combined to offer sixty vacancies with their firms, at salaries up to £400 per annum, to men who went direct from school and who have had considerable administrative experience in the Services but no actual business training. The posts will be filled through the Resettlement Advice Office service in the city. Selected men will have twelve months' training in salesmanship, factory management, organisation, etc.

Savings Messages for Employers and Workers.—A letter of thanks to employers for all that they have done to encourage National Savings has been sent by Sir John Anderson (Chancellor of the Exchequer) to the president of the British Employers' Confederation and to all employers' organisations throughout the country. The General Council of the Trades Union Congress, in a special message, has asked all trade unionists not to relax their Savings efforts, but to go on giving full support to the National Savings movement. The Trade Union Congress pays tribute to the way in which workers, by their savings and in other ways have supported the Armed Forces of the United Nations.

Scientists Return from Russia.—A delegation of British scientists, which visited Russia recently to join in celebrating the jubilee of the Soviet Academy of Science has returned to this country. Sir Robert Robinson, an organic chemist, said that Soviet scientists were keen on international co-operation. He and his British colleagues felt that in the Russians they had a body of men with whom co-operation in a future sense was not only possible but absolutely necessary. Professor E. N. da C. Andrade said that many of the laboratories they saw were outstanding in equipment and organisation. Wherever they went they found a keen appreciation of what British scientists had done. Professor N. K. Adam said that Professor Kapitsa, who first made his name at Cambridge, had told him he thought

hat Russian scientists were now within measurable distance of making aluminium from clay.

National Pharmaceutical Employees' Union.—A report of the annual meeting of the N.P.E.U. held at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1, on March 25, has been received. The meeting opened with a welcome by the chairman (Mr. G. H. Armitage) to members, many of whom were strangers except by name. Mr. Armitage thanked them for so courageously defying the enemy by attending the meeting. He reviewed the work of the previous twelve months and gave details of the formation of the Leicester branch and the registration of the Union. Work on the rules, he said, was by no means finished. Benefits had to be decided, and the necessary funds collected. At this stage he urged all members to save the treasurer a headache by sending in their subscriptions promptly. Any member who had a benefit scheme to submit was invited to do so. He next dealt with the negative side of the Union's activities. Had the N.P.E.U. been represented on the Joint Industrial Council for Retail Pharmacy such an unfertile agreement as the wages award could not have been made, as alternative machinery existed to deal with this matter. The need was stressed for a London branch of the Union; this was on the programme for the current year.

Dail Question on Weed-killers.—In Dail Eireann, on July 5, Mr. James M. Dillon asked the Minister for Agriculture if his attention had been drawn to research proceeding in the United States on the use of 2,4-dichlorophenyl-acetic acid for the destruction of docks, chickweed, dandelions and plantains without injury to grass, and if he would cause experiments to be made with a view to popularising the procedure in Ireland. The Minister for Agriculture (Dr. J. Ryan), replying, said: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As to the second part, trials with such of the chemical preparations as are available are in progress in this country. The impression appears to have been created that weeds can be easily eradicated by chemical dressings. I am advised that this is not so. Many of the common weeds have so far been found to be resistant to the chemicals that have been tried, and certain of the dressings have been found to be harmful to useful plants.—Mr. Dillon was also informed by the Minister, in answer to a question whether he would have the efficiency of gammexane tested with a view

to popularising its insecticidal properties in Ireland if the tests proved satisfactory, that trials were being carried out.

Northern Ireland Examination Results.—The following candidates were successful in the Final Qualifying examination (Part II) of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, held recently: Harold Gregson Barkley; Margaret Finola Brannigan; Maureen Eugenie Byrne; Gerard Lawrence Cannon; Mary Josephine Donoghue; John Patrick Fitzsimons; Robert Foye; James Gerard Hendron; Oliver Plunkett Keenan; Herbert Victor Lyness; Gerard William Monaghan; Patrick Shields. In the Preliminary Scientific examination (Part I) the following passed: Alan Armer Alcorn; Marshall John Beggs; Jean Alexandra Blair; Harold Oswald Cooke; John Cunningham; Ronald Douglas Duke; Arthur Kevin Kelly; Vera Knipe; Edward Gerard Mackle; Desmond Murphy; John Joseph McCaughey; John McLaughlin; Robert John McNeill; William James McQuitty; Thomas Davidson Proctor; John Francis Purce; Thomas John Quinn; Robert Robinson; William Burnaby Shannon; John James Speers; Joan Margaret Taylor.

Air Mail to Middle East.—Civilian correspondence for Egypt, Palestine and other countries in the Middle East, to which there has hitherto been no ordinary air mail service, and for India and Ceylon, for which air mail correspondence has been carried part of the way by sea, is now accepted for transmission all the way by air from the United Kingdom if aircraft capacity is available after priority requirements have been met. The air postage for all the countries concerned is 1s. 3d. per half oz. for letters and 7d. for postcards. Countries covered by this announcement are Aden, Afghanistan, British Somaliland, Ceylon, China (unoccupied), Cyprus, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia; French Somali Coast, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Persian Gulf Ports (Bahrein, Dubai, and Sharjah, Kuwait, Muscat), Saudi Arabia, Sudan (Anglo-Egyptian), Syria, Tibet, and Transjordan. Air mail correspondence for East Africa will continue for the present to be forwarded by sea to Egypt for onward conveyance by air. There is still no ordinary air mail service to West and South Africa, but services will be introduced so soon as aircraft capacity for the purpose can be made available. Sixpenny air letters for Empire destinations in Africa and Asia, and for Egypt, Iraq and Iran, will continue invariably to be carried by air throughout.

COMPANY NEWS

JENNINGS (CHEMISTS), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £500. Chemists, druggists, sundries-men, etc. Gerald J. Hickey, M.P.S., and Violet B. Jennings, directors. R.O.: 457 Wandsworth Road, London, S.W.8.

C. & D. PRODUCTS (BRISTOL), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. Druggists, chemists, dry-salters, manufacturers of and dealers in proprietary articles, etc. Elias Cohen and Edith E. Cohen, both of 88 Chesterfield Road, Bristol, directors. R.O.: Oxford Chambers, St. Stephen Street, Bristol.

[This company is not connected with THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.—EDITOR.]

MIDLAND BANK, LTD.—Directors announce an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 of 8 per cent., less income tax (same).

HERBERT FERRYMAN, LTD., wholesale and manufacturing chemists, Southampton.—Mr. John Swan, M.P.S., F.S.M.C., has joined the board of directors.

PERSONALITIES

MR. A. C. BENZIE, who was until recently engaged on fine chemical production with May & Baker, Ltd., Dagenham, has arrived at Bombay, India, to take up an executive position with May & Baker (India), Ltd.

PHARMACEUTICAL candidates who held their seats in the recent Eire local elections included Messrs. P. A. Brady, who has been re-elected a councillor of the Dublin Corporation, and Mr. M. J. O'Rourke, who was re-elected to the Dun Loaghair borough council.

MR. D. S. NAPIER, M.P.S., has resigned his appointment at Glasgow Royal Infirmary to take up a post with a pharmaceutical manufacturer in England. For some years he has been a member of the committee of the Glasgow Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society.

MR. ALUN LLOYD JONES, M.P.S., Grassington, Skipton, Yorks, has been appointed interim registrar of births and deaths in Grassington and district. His wife, who becomes deputy interim registrar, is also a member of the local Youth Council, and secretary and treasurer of the local Labour Party.

CAPTAIN J. W. J. MORRIS, M.P.S., R.A.S.C., a director of Wells (St. Albans), Ltd., High Street, St. Albans, Herts, has been mentioned in dispatches for gallant

and distinguished services in North-west Europe. Captain Morris joined the army two-and-a-half years ago. He went to France on D-day and later to Belgium returning to England just before Christmas 1944.

MR. DAVID EASTON has been the recipient of a presentation from Mr. John Borlan, head of the partnership of Rankin & Borlan, chemists, Kilmarnock, on the occasion of his retirement after sixty years' service with the firm. Mr. Easton has served members of three generations of the family each of whom bore the name of John Borlan.

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CHANGES in prices in June were as follows:

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9	20	Ac. ascorbic. (tab.) 25-mgm. . .	s. d.	s. d.	s.
36	dr.	Allantoinum . .	1 1	per	tube 5
22	25	Aneurin. hyd. (tab.) 3-mgm. . .	2 9	per	tube
39	oz.	Anidopyrina . .	5 9		
16	oz.	Balsam toltanum . .	2 4		
54	lb.	Cera alba in massa . .	2 0		7
58	lb.	Cera alba in placen-tis . .	2 2		8
50	lb.	Cera flava extot. . .	1 10		7
54	oz.	Cinchophenum R only . .			1
258	lb.	Copaiba . .	9 4	2 9	
186	lb.	Elixir viburni et hydrast., B.P.C. . .	7 8	2 4	
27	lb.	Emuls. olei morrhuae, B.P.C. . .	1 0		4
34	lb.	Emuls. ol. morrh. c. hypophos., B.P.C. . .	1 3		5
222	lb.	Ext. senega liqui-dum . .		2 4	
108	lb.	Ext. stramonii liq. S. 1 (5) . .		1 2	
30	oz.	Ext. stramonii sicc. S. 1 (5) . .		4 5	
180	lb.	Ol. amygdalæ Ang. . .	6 5	1 11	
12	oz.	Ol. cadinum . .		1 10	
33	oz.	Phenazonum . .		4 10	
11	oz.	Pil. colocynthidis co. pulv. . .		1 8	
27	oz.	Pil. scammonii co. pulv. . .		4 0	
24	oz.	Salol . .		3 6	
57	lb.	Succus taraxaci . .	2 1		7
57	lb.	Tr. cardam. co. . .	2 1		7
96	lb.	Tr. colchici . .	3 5	1 0	
114	lb.	Tr. guaiaci ammon. B.P.C. . .		1 2	
14	lb.	Zinci oxidum . .			7

TOPICAL REFLECTIONS

Ways and Means

There will, I hope, be a correspondence in your columns on the stimulating article by Mr. J. Ross-Mansell headed "A Practical Policy for Today" (p. 10). Proprietors of single businesses (whether with branches or not) are beginning to face new conditions, and their remarks on this subject should be helpful. I need hardly mention that emotional sympathy" for "the small man" is not likely to be of any practical value: that truth is implied in your contributor's article. Any scheme that will cost comparatively little and will achieve unity without jeopardising individuality is worth careful examination. Schemes of co-operative buying have, in fact, been in existence for some years; but the present plan goes further by postulating a "National Pharmaceutical Service" with an extensive pooling of resources and some degree of unification in externals. It seems to follow that organization on a national scale would have to be undertaken in order to obtain the best results for the suggested units. Is it intended to ask an existing society to expand its scope for this purpose, or to set up a new body? With a population mainly urban and likely to remain so, a co-operative scheme on the lines indicated should be workable in populous areas: the circumstances of rural pharmacies are different, and for them special treatment might be required. The writer of the article presents the serious alternatives "unite and survive, or remain isolated and succumb." His warning is not to be lightly dismissed by pharmacists in business. The question may be considered whether it is practicable to link up the ideas put forward by Mr. Ross-Mansell with existing schemes, such as the policy of the Unichem Association. It is known that that body, whose activities the war has held in check, looks forward to a period of expansion.

Trees of Life

With a tinge of regret I read in your last week's issue (p. 26) that the name "tree of life" is claimed for the carnauba tree, known in Brazil, it appears, as "arvore de vide." The thoughts of pharmacists who read that statement turn, naturally, to *lignum vitae*, which instead of coming from this tree of life owes its origin to *Guaiacum officinale* and *Guaiacum sanctum*. But that is not the end of the matter. Two more trees have an established claim to being regarded as trees of life, namely, *Thuja occidentalis*

and *Thuja orientalis*. (The alternative spelling *Thuya* is accounted for by the fact that Theophrastus, and possibly other authors, wrote the name as *θβία*.) The first of these two trees is the American arbor vitae, a conifer found in several varieties and sometimes growing to a height of fifty feet. The second tree is the Chinese arbor vitae, found also in several varieties with different heights. Not being a professor of botany, I cannot hope to straighten out this tangle; I merely note it as a curiosity of nomenclature. My information does not include a mention of any pharmaceutical or commercial use for either American or Chinese trees of life. They appear to serve a merely ornamental purpose in the world, and to exist mainly for the delectation of gardeners.

Lignum Vitæ

The wood of the species of guaiacum just referred to has been used in medicine since the sixteenth century. It has had a lengthy reputation as an alternative in rheumatism, syphilis and other diseases. According to Monardes (Frampton's translation, 1577), it was first discovered in San Domingo, where the natives introduced it to the Spaniards. In 1536 Ulrich von Hutten's "*De Guaiaci Medicina et Morbo Gallico*" was rendered into English by Thomas Paynel: among the ailments the wood was then said to relieve were "the Goute in the Feete, the Stone, the Palsey, Lepree, Dropsy, Fallynge Euyll." The fame of this drug was then so widespread that many of the cures attributed to its help were such as to make a modern reader wonder at the credulity of his ancestors. It still forms an ingredient in compound decoction of sarsaparilla. In 1921 a monograph was presented in the History Section of the Royal Society of Medicine offering the novel theory that Shakespeare's "cursed hebenon" was guaiacum. The author, Mr. Marshall Montgomery, cited passages from sixteenth-century writers for the purpose of showing that guaiacum was then regarded as a powerful or even poisonous drug, and that it was known by such names as "hebenon" because classed as a kind of ebony. How the juice mentioned by Hamlet was supposed to be obtained from this wood I do not know. There is still no final agreement among botanists about this interesting Shakespearian crux. With all deference I venture to suggest, if I have not done so before, that Shakespeare may have deliberately coined a name. **Xrayser**

BIRTH

LINDSAY.—At Dalblair nursing home, Ayr, on June 9, Elizabeth, the wife of W. S. Lindsay, M.P.S., 64 High Street, Maybole, of a son (Martin Mitchell).

MARRIAGES

MCLEOD—MCQUEEN.—At Glasgow University Chapel, on June 27, John Mitchell McLeod, B.Sc., A.R.T.C., to Christina Lawther Harkness McQueen, B.Sc., Ph.C., 131 Main Street, Wishaw.

MERRY—KERR.—At Marlborough House, Glasgow, on July 3, John J. F. Merry, M.P.S., D.B.A., 21 Highburgh Road, Hyndland, Glasgow, W.2, to Vi Craig Kerr, Glasgow, S.4.

WARD—MACEWAN.—At All Saints' Church, Oakham, on July 10, Squadron-Leader Albert Ward, R.A.F., to Euphemia Patricia (Effie) MacEwan, M.P.S., 27 Narborough Road, Leicester, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ian P. MacEwan, and a granddaughter of the late Mr. Peter MacEwan, Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 1885-1917.

DEATHS

AIRD.—On June 29, Rev. George Henry Aird, St. Giles' Vicarage, Durham. Mr. Aird qualified as a chemist and druggist in 1899.

BARKER.—On July 7, suddenly, Miss Doreen Audrey Barker, almoner at St. Helier's Hospital, Carshalton, and elder daughter of Mr. D. W. E. Barker, M.P.S., and Mrs. Barker, The Outspan, Croxley Green, Herts.

EVANS.—At the home of his brother, Mayfield, Lampeter, recently, Mr. John Evans, Ph.C., Sheffield, formerly an examiner for the Pharmaceutical Society. Mr. Evans practised as a public analyst in Sheffield and had been awarded the degree of M.Sc. by the Sheffield University in recognition of his services to chemistry. He was a former High Sheriff of Cardiganshire and first Worshipful Master of the Peterwell Lodge of Freemasons.

FRASER.—In France, recently, as the result of an aircraft accident, Flight-Sergeant Frederick Fraser, M.P.S., 21 Wallfield Place, aged thirty. Flight-Sergeant Fraser qualified in 1930 after an apprenticeship with Davidson & Kay, 219 Union Street, Aberdeen. A navigator, he was killed on the eve

of his leave, which he was to spend home. He was unmarried.

HARPER.—In January, Mr. James Harper M.P.S., 155 Conway Street, Birkenhead. Mr. Harper qualified in 1890.

JOWETT.—On June 23, Mr. Henry Jowett Ph.C., formerly of 125 Pasture Street Grimsby, aged eighty-five. Mr. Jowett had been in business at Grimsby for over forty years, retiring in April 1944. Shortly after his retirement he returned to his pharmacy which he superintended until the day of his death.

MILLER.—At 47 East London Street Edinburgh, on June 30, Mrs. Margaret Baird Miller, widow of the late Mr. Alexander Miller, M.P.S., Dennistoun, Glasgow.

PRITCHARD.—At 93 Egerton Road, Whiteley Range, Manchester, 16, on June 10, Mr. Charles Pritchard, for many years representative in Wales for James Woollens & Co., Ltd., Manchester, aged fifty-nine. Mr. Pritchard had been in the service of the company for over forty years.

SNOW.—On June 18, Mr. Harris Charles Snow, M.P.S., 11 Park Gate Road, Wallington, Surrey. Mr. Snow qualified in 1901. He had been in business at Wallington for twenty years and was a member, and president from 1940 until his death, of the Croydon Pharmacists' Association.

WROTHWELL.—At Northallerton Royal Air Force hospital, on July 7, Sergeant F. M. Wrothwell, M.P.S., R.A.F., 10 Marl Place, Kirby Moorside, aged forty. Sergeant Wrothwell qualified in 1927 from the Royal Public Dispensary, Edinburgh, and worked in West Kirby and Leigh-on-Sea before taking over a business in Corbridge, North-Tyne. In 1937 he went into partnership with his father, the late Mr. F. J. Wrothwell, M.P.S., at Kirby Moorside, Yorkshire. Although reserved from call-up, he volunteered for the R.A.F. and worked as a dispenser on R.A.F. troopships until a few weeks ago. Taken ill during his leave, he was admitted to the R.A.F. hospital and died after a short illness, borne with characteristic courage and fortitude. Sergeant Wrothwell was a bachelor with no near relatives, but he will be missed by a large circle of friends, who may communicate with Mr. E. A. Brocklehurst, M.P.S., 214 Willer Road, Hull. A colleague writes: "Pharmacy has lost a most attractive and enthusiastic member who loved his profession and his country, and his passing is sorely felt by those who were fortunate in having his friendship."

TRADE NOTES

In Good Supply.—Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., London, E.2, announce that they have good stocks of Dextrin Maltose No. 1 (with sodium chloride) and No. 2 (plain).

Advice on Lighting.—An offer to give expert advice on questions of peace-time lighting of shops is made by Siemens Electric Lamps & Supplies, Ltd., 38 Upper Thames Street, London, E.C.4.

Distribution in India.—M. G. Shahani & Co., manufacturers' representatives, Victoria Road, Karachi, India, with offices at Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, offer modern facilities for wholesale distribution throughout India.

Household Disinfectant.—Prepared in the laboratories of the British Disinfectant Co., Ltd., Tottenham, London, N.15, 3—Hands household disinfectant is offered as a deodorant and germicide (non-poisonous) by the makers of Sprim.

Packed Lines from Stock.—Anthony Trading Supplies, Ltd., offer to supply from stock a range of ointments in tins, vapour rub, tooth-pastes and toilet items. Names, packs and prices are given in an announcement in this issue.

India Visit.—Mr. R. G. Pattinson (sales manager, Bourjois, Ltd., 36 Grove Road, Sutton, Surrey) is shortly leaving by air for India to open up offices for the company in Bombay and to appoint representatives. Mr. Pattinson previously visited India in 1927 and 1929 for the development of his company's export trade.

Change of Pack.—As a temporary measure A. De St. Dalmas & Co., Ltd., Junior Street, Leicester, have discontinued marketing the sixpenny pack of Dalmas first-aid dressing. A new shilling pack has been introduced which is considered much more attractive than the previous orange tin. Details may be obtained from the company.

Again Available.—Felamine, which has been in short supply for some time, is now again available. The preparation provides the physiological choleric action of pure cholic acid with the antiseptic properties of hexamine. Supplies may be obtained through wholesalers or direct from the sole distributors, Brooks & Warburton, Ltd., 232-42 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

Holiday Closings.—The offices and works of ASHLEY & WEEKS, LTD., 165 Mitcham Road, London, S.W.17, will be closed from

August 4-11.—The works and offices of M. BEETHAM & SON, Cheltenham, will be closed from August 2 until August 13.—The offices and works of C. R. CROSSKILL & SONS, Calvert Works, Norwich, will be closed from July 28 to August 6, inclusive.—The offices and works of DENTAL FILLINGS, LTD., 121 Camden High Street, London, N.W.1, will be closed from August 3-7.

Anæsthetic Ointment.—Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., Greenford, Middlesex, state that their new anæsthetic ointment Ane-thaine contains 1 per cent. of the fat-soluble base of amethocaine hydrochloride, a powerful local anæsthetic giving relief from pain and discomfort lasting two hours or more. Designed particularly for relief in hæmorrhoids and skin diseases, the preparation has many other uses. It is presented in $\frac{3}{4}$ -oz. collapsible tubes.

Tooth-brushes on Active Service.—Giving reasons for the present regretted civilian shortage of Spa tooth-brushes, John Freeman & Co., Ltd., London, E.17, point out that they have been called upon to supply large numbers to the Services, and at the same time to manufacture a variety of other types of brushes for military purposes, as well as components for guns and aircraft.

Business Changes

MR. DAVID MURPHY, M.P.S.I., is shortly opening a pharmacy at Kilmairham, Dublin.

PLYMOUTH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD., has purchased the pharmacy of Mr. T. H. Harris, M.P.S., Fairmont Terrace, Wolseley Road, Plymouth. Mr. C. J. Hocking has been appointed manager.

WASHINGTON CHEMICAL CO., LTD., are removing on July 26 to Everite House, 59½ Southwark Street, London, S.E.1 (telephone: Waterloo 6421 (five lines); telegraphic address: Pattprodux, London).

UNITED GLASS BOTTLE MANUFACTURERS, LTD., transferred their Bickley, Kent, offices on June 16 to the company's head offices at 8 Leicester Street, London, W.C.2 (telephone: Gerard 8611).

RANKIN BROTHERS & SONS, 139 Bermondsey Street, London, S.E.1, have acquired the old-established business of John Dakin, cork manufacturer, Oldham, Lancs. Until further notice they will continue to trade from Oldham under the old firm name.

NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL UNION

MEETINGS of the Executive of the National Pharmaceutical Union and Chemists' Defence Association were held in London on June 26 and 27, Mr. E. A. Brocklehurst in the chair. A resolution was passed expressing appreciation of the loyal co-operation and assistance that had been given to the N.P.U. by members of the staff during the years of war. MR. SKUES, as a new member of the Executive, thanked the older members of the Committee for the constant attention they had given to the work of the Union during the past five years; this was seconded by MR. J. F. McNEAL. THE SECRETARY was instructed to send the following resolution to the Pharmaceutical Joint Committee on a National Health Service:—

"That the N.P.U. Executive Committee is of opinion that the time has now arrived to appoint a comprehensive negotiating committee to conduct all further National Health Service negotiations as they apply to pharmacy, including remuneration."

Reports of meetings of the Price List, Central N.H.I., Business Services and Accounts Committees were received and approved. The secretary's report upon matters that had arisen since the previous meeting of the Executive was received.

Purchase-tax Registration

THE SECRETARY reported that, owing to pressure on Parliamentary time, the Government had decided not to proceed further with its proposal to withdraw the purchase-tax exemption limit before the dissolution of Parliament. The Executive considered that no further action was necessary at this stage.

P.A.T.A. Policy

A letter was reported sent to the Proprietary Articles Trade Association indicating that the Executive of the N.P.U. was interested to note the recommendation of the Council of the P.A.T.A. to manufacturers to promote sales through chemists, and that the subject of wholesale distribution was to be reviewed. The letter also stated that the practical application of the various resolutions that had been adopted by the P.A.T.A. Council would be followed with interest by the N.P.U. Executive, and that representations might be renewed when the results of the Council's action could be assessed. A reply had been received from the secretary of the P.A.T.A.

stating that the resolution adopted by the P.A.T.A. Council had already been brought to the notice of individual members of the manufacturers' section, and that steps would be taken from time to time to remind those members of the Council's policy.

It was resolved that the words "no market price" be withdrawn from certain items appearing in the N.P.U. Retail Price List, and that a retail price based on the last known wholesale price should be substituted, a suitable reference being made to indicate that such prices were not necessarily based on current costs.

The Joint Industrial Council for Retail Pharmacy had agreed with the Ministry of Labour and National Service, it was reported, upon the general lines of a vocational training scheme for women, disabled or otherwise, who might be released from national service and who wished to take up employment as shop assistants in retail pharmacy.

Information was submitted by THE SECRETARY upon action which the Board of Trade proposed to take in regard to making a census of retail distribution. It was pointed out that legislation would be necessary before such a census could be taken, and it was unlikely that there would be any immediate developments in the matter.

The Executive considered problems connected with the dispensing of penicillin and penicillin preparations in the dispensing department of the average retail pharmacy, and instructed the secretary to investigate the best means of assisting members of the N.P.U. in regard to this matter, and to send a letter to the Pharmaceutical Society suggesting that some action should be taken by that body to provide chemists with the necessary instruction for carrying out this specialised form of dispensing service.

Resolution on Publicity

The following resolution was received from the Loughborough Branch of the N.P.U.:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the N.P.U.'s publicity scheme, which in pre-war days was abandoned owing to lack of financial support, should be revived, as, owing to the more prosperous condition of trade at the present time, it is felt that the funds necessary to launch this scheme would easily be forthcoming."

The secretary was instructed to send a letter to the branch secretary thanking members for their interest in the matter, and pointing out difficulties which made it inadvisable to adopt the resolution at the present time.

War Funds

A report was submitted to the effect that 740 members of the Air-raid Mutual Assistance Fund wished to donate their £5 deposits in that fund to the Victory Reserve Fund. A smaller number of members wished for the return of their deposits, and no reply had yet been received from 1,168 members. The N.P.U. War Distress Fund Committee had not met since the previous meeting of the Executive, and the secretary had no developments to report. A notice had appeared in the trade Press asking proprietor chemists who were likely to claim on the War Distress Fund to send a preliminary notification of their claim to the Committee; a similar notice had appeared in the June issue of the N.P.U. Supplement. Several new applications for assistance from the Fund were awaiting the attention of the Committee.

It was resolved that proposals concerning the twenty-fifth anniversary of the N.P.U. should be considered at the next meeting of the Executive.

Death of Mr. Gwyn Vaughan Morgan

THE SECRETARY reported the death of Mr. Gwyn Vaughan Morgan, a director of Morgan Bros. (Publishers), Ltd., publishers of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and it was resolved to send a letter of sympathy to the proprietors.

National Health Insurance

No reply was stated to have been received to representations made to the Ministries of Health and Supply in regard to the shortage of supplies of cotton wool and surgical dressings, and it was resolved that the representations should be renewed.

The secretary was instructed to make further inquiries into the relationship between supplies of liquid paraffin imported to the current demand for medicinal use, and to take steps to secure a more adequate distribution of available supplies.

An interim report was submitted by THE SECRETARY upon action taken in regard to an inquiry concerning the supply position and cost of containers in relation to the existing drug-tariff deposit rates. The secretary was asked to continue his investigation and report back to the Committee.

An interim report upon a joint conference of representatives of branches of the Pharmaceutical Society, N.P.U. branches and Pharmaceutical Committees was submitted by THE SECRETARY, and it was resolved to congratulate and thank Mr. Tristram on his effective conduct of the business of the conference, and Mr. Mallinson for the able way in which he had dealt with certain questions raised.

Remuneration

THE SECRETARY reported that no further information had been received from the Ministry of Health on the outcome of a claim for an increase in dispensing fees. It was understood that detailed particulars were now in the hands of the new Ministry of National Insurance. Recent Government changes, and the appointment of a new Minister of National Insurance, were likely causes of the decision being delayed. It was resolved to press the Government departments for an early decision.

MR. T. HESELTINE asked whether a final ruling had yet been given by the Minister of Health on the question whether a panel contractor was entitled to supply a non-proprietary form of drug or a different proprietary brand of the drug on an N.H.I. prescription which called for a specified maker's brand. He was informed that no decision had yet been reached.

Chemists' Defence Association

Finality was reached in four claims out of nineteen outstanding at the time of the May meeting. The settlements comprised payments of £40 for personal injuries alleged to be due to incorrect labelling of a nasal spray; £10 for personal injuries resulting from the use of phenol ear-drops; the cost of a new tyre to replace one destroyed whilst burning shop rubbish; and a payment in connexion with an ointment supplied on prescription and which it was claimed did not give the results obtained from previous supplies. The directors considered matters arising out of a recent case before the Divisional Court of the High Court, the effect of the decision in which was that the accuracy of disclosure of composition of a "recommended medicine" could not be effectively challenged under the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, if the article was sold by a retailer who was not also the manufacturer. It was decided that the problems thus created should be discussed jointly with representatives of the Pharmaceutical Society, through the Liaison Committee.

CHEMISTS' FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

A MEETING of the Council of the Chemists' Friends Association was held in London on June 12, the president (Mr. T. Heseltine) in the chair.

Reports on meetings of the C.F. Standards and C.F. Propaganda Committees were received and approved.

Applications for Membership

Acceptance of the following applications for manufacturer membership of the C.F. Association was confirmed: Merz & Co., Ltd. (all proprietary medicinal preparations and proprietary medical and surgical dressings, including Recto-Thanol, Corizone and Uderm).

Emmet Distributing Co., Ltd., London (all proprietary medicinal preparations and proprietary medical and surgical dressings marketed by the manufacturer, including Velocium).

Three other applications for manufacturer membership were referred back. The Council accepted the following application for an addition to the schedule of an existing C.F. agreement: Damancy & Co., Ltd., Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex (A-A dermal lotion).

A letter was received from a C.F. manufacturer protesting against the Council's non-acceptance of many applications for wholesaler membership of the C.F. Association, and it was resolved that the manufacturer concerned should be informed that applications which might be received from wholesalers for the inclusion of their names in the list of approved distributors by wholesale of C.F. products would be considered on their merits, subject to the conditions prevailing at the time when the application was made.

Five applications for wholesaler membership of the C.F. Association were considered; three were refused, one referred to the Scottish C.F. Committee; and one referred back for further consideration.

Northern Ireland C.F. Committee

At the request of the executive committee of the Ulster Chemists' Association and of wholesalers whose businesses were situated in Northern Ireland, the Council gave further consideration to the Constitution of the Northern Ireland C.F. Committee, and it was resolved that the Constitution of this Committee should be amended to comprise four retailers' representatives, two manufacturers' representatives and two wholesalers' representatives.

THE SECRETARY reported that, following the return of the £50 deposit which had been held by N.P.U., Ltd., the following manufacturers had submitted formal applications for membership of the C.F. Association: George Eade, Ltd.; Harker, Staggs & Morgan, Ltd.; Roche Products, Ltd.

Use of C.F. Symbol

A request was received from a retail chemist for permission to use the C.F. symbol as a brand name on his own packed goods and specialities. It was resolved that the chemist should be asked to submit draft labels to show how he proposed to use the symbol, and to instruct the secretary to incorporate in the next agenda of the C.F. Council an item concerning the use of the C.F. symbol by chemists on their own labels.

A letter was received from Cal-Ma-Vite Laboratories, Ltd., intimating that they had taken over British Seltzer (1942), Ltd., and that that company had now ceased trading: the resignation of British Seltzer (1942), Ltd., from manufacturer membership of the C.F.A. was tendered and accepted.

A drug-store proprietor in Yorkshire applied for permission to sell C.F. products by retail; this was not granted.

Return of Prisoner-of-war Member

THE PRESIDENT informed the Council that Mr. Simmons (who, prior to joining His Majesty's Forces, had represented British Colloids, Ltd., on the C.F. Council) had now returned to this country after several years' captivity as a prisoner of war in Germany. The secretary was instructed to write a letter of congratulation to Mr. Simmons.

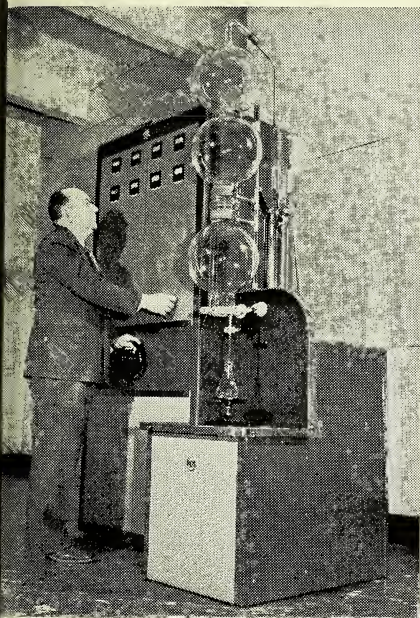
THE PRESIDENT congratulated members of the Council upon the constant attention they had given to the work of the Association during the period of the war in Europe.

Thirty-three applications for the maintenance of supply of C.F. products to businesses temporarily converted into drug stores owing to war-time conditions were considered. Twenty-six were accepted and seven refused.

CLOSED ON SATURDAYS.—Advertisers and subscribers are reminded that owing to war conditions the Head Office of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 28 Essex Street, London, W.C.2, is closed on Saturdays until further notice. Urgent instructions relating to advertising and subscriptions should be sent to the C. & D., 17 Argyle Street, Bath, Somerset.

RADIO-FREQUENCY DRYING OF PENICILLIN

ALTHOUGH diathermy has long been used in the medical profession, the use of high-frequency electric currents for drying purposes is new (see *C. & D.*, February 24, p. 192). The process is



Mr. G. H. Brown (Radio Corporation of America) standing beside the apparatus he designed for radio-frequency drying of penicillin.

proving very suitable for dehydrating pharmaceutical products that are unstable at high temperatures. For example, penicillin loses its activity in a few days upon standing in water at room temperature. At higher temperatures its activity is lost even more rapidly. For this reason, some manufacturers dry it and use it as required.

To prevent destruction of the penicillin, it has been dried at 50° below zero in a vacuum of 0.1 mm. of mercury, and this technique required several complicated and special pieces of apparatus, such as a refrigerated condenser, to keep the vapour out of the high-vacuum pump. To speed up the dehydration process, Dr. G. H. Brown, together with Bierwirth and Hoyer, experimented in the use of radio-frequency heating. The two main difficulties were that a small amount of air left in the vacuum chamber readily ionised on applica-

tion of high-radio-frequency voltages, and also that, because of the solvent used, it was impossible to dehydrate penicillin in a high vacuum without freezing the solution. After several attempts, in which special bottle designs were used, a technique was found to be satisfactory in which the penicillin was placed in plastic bottles and the bottles rotated at high velocity in an electric field. The rotation created sufficient centrifugal force to spread the solution in a thin layer on the inside of the bottle, holding it there at a force 100 times that of gravity, so that the penicillin was not lost by foaming. Using a 2-kilowatt oscillator operating at a frequency of 28 megacycles per second, a continuous-processing three-minute drying cycle was made possible in America. The great improvement achieved in dehydration suggests that radio-frequency heating can well be applied to other pharmaceutical products.

INSURANCE ACT DISPENSING

Glasgow.—Insured persons on the lists of medical practitioners within the area of the Insurance Committee at the beginning of 1945 totalled 462,551.

South-eastern Division.—Prescriptions dealt with by the Joint Committee for Pricing Prescriptions (South-eastern Division) during 1944 were as follows: Dispensed by chemists: number, 8,670,869; value, £463,916; dispensed by doctors, 23,003, £2,578. The number of individual chemists' accounts in 1944 was 29,341.

South-west Lancashire and Cheshire.—The following table shows the number of pharmacists under agreement with the committees, together with the number of insured patients, on July 1, 1944:—

Area	Pharmacists' shops, July 1, 1944	Insured persons on doctors' lists	Count of index register
Birkenhead ..	104	53,466	57,853
Bootle ..	82	26,477	28,926
Cheshire ..	445	291,127	320,732
Chester ..	31	20,360	21,161
Liverpool ..	333	308,150	333,862
St. Helens ..	28	47,246	49,663
Southport ..	40	31,931	34,321
Stockport ..	98	62,982	68,033
Wallasey ..	74	31,185	33,807
Warrington ..	22	37,136	38,959
Wigan ..	38	39,219	40,421
Total ..	1,295	949,279	1,027,738

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

THE monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was held in London on July 3 and 4, the president (Mr. J. C. Young) in the chair.

Tuesday's Session

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Committee on a National Pharmaceutical Service held on May 30 were received. They showed that a further meeting had taken place between representatives of the Committee and of the Ministry of Health and that a letter submitting the provisional opinion of the Committee on the matters discussed had been sent to the Minister with a request for an opportunity for a personal discussion with him. A letter from Reading Branch conveyed a resolution that the Society should be asked to inaugurate a post-graduate course by correspondence, combined with local lectures where possible; the resolution was referred to the Education Committee.

Wednesday's Proceedings

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY reported that, since the previous meeting, thirteen persons had been registered as apprentices or students, and fifty-one former registered pharmacists had applied for restoration. Applications had been made for restoration of seventeen sets of premises. These were approved. Two pharmacists were registered under the reciprocity agreements with Ontario and Northern Ireland. Correspondence was received from the British Volunteer Ambulance Corps thanking the Society and National Pharmaceutical Union for their decision to permit the disposal of ambulances they had provided; from the Pharmaceutical Society of India congratulating the Council and members on the victory achieved in Europe; and from the Executive of the British Pharmaceutical Conference asking whether the Council would agree, as in previous years, to make good any deficit on the expenses of the British Pharmaceutical Conference for 1945 up to £100; it was decided to grant the request.

Mr. F. C. Wilson was elected *Chairman* and Miss M. C. Islip *Vice-chairman* of the Public Services Committee. It was reported that correspondence had passed between the Society and the Ministry of Health concerning an inquiry to local hospitals by a regional establishment of the Emergency Blood Transfusion Service. The inquiry was whether the supply by the Service of intravenous crystalloids such as

physiological saline and glucose saline was required or would be appreciated. In consequence the Ministry had authorised the following statement to be made: "Intravenous crystalloids are not normally supplied by the Emergency Blood Transfusion Service. No regular supply of such preparations is made, but occasionally supplies may be made in special circumstances to a hospital where no satisfactory alternative source of supply is available."

Committees' Reports

The report of the Law Committee, presented by SIR MALCOLM DELEIVINGNE, who had been re-elected *Chairman*, showed that the premises of 860 authorised sellers, three listed sellers, and 336 drug-store proprietors and similar traders had been visited since the previous meeting. Nine cases of alleged infringements were considered and appropriate action taken. The Committee had received explanations from two pharmacists who had been reported as having sold chemicals which had resulted in accidents to schoolchildren. Further communications had been received from the Home Office indicating that serious accidents were continuing to occur, and that the matter was one of considerable concern to the authorities.

Mr. J. F. McNEAL moved the minutes of the Benevolent Fund and War Aid Committee (two committees now amalgamated into one). He reported that expenditure from the war-aid fund totalled £5,570. Twenty-five members, students and Dominion pharmacists who were prisoners of war or internees were known to have been repatriated since the previous meeting. Consideration, he said, had been given to the question of co-operation between the Society and the National Pharmaceutical Union War Distress Fund in cases where help was requested to enable a pharmacist to reinstate himself in business. The Committee was anxious that there should be the fullest co-operation, and had agreed on the procedure to be adopted. It had been reported to the Committee that the N.P.U. Executive had decided to continue to sponsor the penny-in-the-£ scheme until the end of 1945. There were some people who might consider that contributions to the fund should now cease, and it was much better to fix some date when they should expect the contributions to cease, in the hope that members would continue to contribute until that date. In reply to THE

CHAIRMAN, he said the Committee had not made its decision on the matter. The minutes were adopted.

A summary of the minutes of a special meeting of the Benevolent Fund Committee held on July 2 was discussed in committee.

Good Response to U.S. Observer Scheme

MR. MAPLETHORPE, who had been elected chairman of the Education Committee, moved adoption of the Committee's minutes. He said there had been a good response from all over the country to an invitation to members of the Society to take part in a scheme whereby American pharmacists serving in Britain would be attached to British pharmacists as unpaid observers. It was expected that the scheme would commence about August 1. Consideration of the advisability of continuing the diploma in Pharmaceutical Analysis had been suspended for six months. On the question of approval of conditions in retail premises prior to authorisation for an apprentice to be taken on, MR. APPLETON asked whether it was now a fact that every pharmacist in retail business desiring to take an apprentice must conform to the regulations, and have his pharmacy inspected by some person or persons nominated by the Council of the Society. MR. MAPLETHORPE said the answer was yes; all pharmacies must be inspected before the Council, through its Education Committee, gave sanction for the taking of an apprentice. Approval had been given to six applications to take apprentices. The minutes were agreed.

The new CHAIRMAN of the Establishment Committee (Mr. Howells) moved the Committee's minutes. He said the Committee desired to place on record appreciation of the very valuable service which Mr. A. R. Melhuish had rendered to the Committee as its chairman, and indeed to the Council and to pharmacy as a whole, for a period of seventeen years. MR. MELHUISH seconded the minutes, and hoped he had done something for the Society in that long period. He was still fit and well, and hoped to be able to do more work for the Society. MR. MCNEAL associated himself with the tribute to Mr. Melhuish, but asked why the Establishment Committee, as well as other committees, had deferred the appointment of a vice-chairman. It was decided to deal with the matter under "Any other business." The minutes were approved.

MR. H. C. SHAW (treasurer) moved adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee, which were approved without

discussion. MR. H. M. HIRST proposed that Mr. McNeal should be elected to a vacancy on the Finance Committee, and this was unanimously agreed.

MR. F. C. WELLS presented the minutes of the Organisation Committee. On the question of branch grants, he said, the Committee was treating very generously, so far as possible, any applications for increased grants, and looked forward to increased activity in the branches during the coming session. Dealing with resolutions passed at the annual meeting of the Society, which had been referred to the Committee by the Council, he said the Committee recommended adoption of the procedure indicated in Mr. P. Varley's resolution, subject to its applying only to resolutions passed at Branch Representatives' meetings. The Committee had discussed the resolution thoroughly, and felt it should not be interpreted too strictly. He knew the mover did not want to tie the Council down too much, but he did feel that in the past many resolutions sent up by branches had not always received proper consideration from the Council, and it was his feeling that where a branch took the trouble to send a resolution up it should be discussed and an appropriate acknowledgment sent. The substance of the Committee's recommendation was that, where a report was issued, it should give names of members of the Council who had voted for or against it. They felt it was not necessary in the case of branch resolutions, but in the case of resolutions from Branch Representatives' meetings on a major issue the names might be given. He moved the recommendation, which MR. MCNEAL seconded.

Publication of Voting Figures

MR. J. T. APPLETON asked if the chairman meant that the votes recorded by the members of Council would be published.—MR. WELLS: Yes, if the resolution comes up before this Council after being sent from a Branch Representatives' meeting.—MR. APPLETON: Can or must or may?—MR. WELLS: I take it will be.

MR. WELLS said the other resolution passed at the annual general meeting was one by Mr. Armitage, which dealt with the operation of the retention clause in the new Charter, and the Committee felt that, as a special committee would be set up later on, it would be the best thing to refer the matter to them.

MR. C. W. Maplethorpe was appointed a representative of the Council upon the Harrison Memorial Selection Committee.

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Local Liaison With Doctors

ANY doubts that may have existed whether local joint committees of doctors and chemists are of practical value should be effectively dissipated by the very useful and concrete results obtained by a liaison committee in Newcastle-on-Tyne (see p. 44). This committee, under the chairmanship of a medical man and with a pharmacist as secretary, met for the first time recently and reached a settlement on many problems that have been causing anxiety in many parts of the country.

It may not be without significance that the agenda was put forward by the chemists, the doctors concurring. Certainly this may be considered the reason why there were so many items upon it. Many of the difficulties encountered almost daily by pharmacists in interpreting doctors' prescriptions simply have not occurred to the majority of prescribers, and it is sufficient that they are brought up in joint discussion to cause them, as in Newcastle, to be cleared up.

Take, for example, the knotty problem of Schedule IV repeats—a question that arose at more than one pharmaceutical Brains Trust during the winter session. The Newcastle doctors at once, and unanimously, agreed to initial the words "To be repeated" on such prescriptions, and that the drug ordered should not be supplied more than three times without a new prescription being

written. The decision is a common-sense one, in tune with the letter and the spirit of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, but, unless and until it is taken in any given locality, the chemists are left in a quandary in which they are at peril of offending either the patient or the doctor or, alternatively, of acting against their own conscience. Assistance was promised by the Newcastle doctors in explaining to patients, when issuing non-repeat prescriptions for Schedule IV drugs, that the prescription form would be retained by the chemist. That the pharmacists were asked, at the same time, for an assurance that they would in all other circumstances return the prescription to the patient was not, we hope, an indication that there had been any departure from this customary procedure, but only of the lack of uniformity in interpreting "To be repeated" that is inevitable in the absence of a clear understanding of prescribers' intentions. In this connexion it is to be observed that the doctors themselves demanded further opportunity to discuss the force of the instruction to repeat when applied to other than Schedule IV prescriptions.

Dispensed Proprieties

In our view the doctors came to a right conclusion in agreeing that all makers' labels should be removed from proprietary medicines ordered on prescription, and the chemists showed a due sense of responsibility in offering not to supply synthetic oestrogens except on prescription. These are matters on which nation-wide agreement would be of inestimable advantage. Without it, practice is likely to continue to vary from district to district, but there is nevertheless much to be gained by efforts to reach local uniformity through liaison committees on the Newcastle model. One other matter fruitfully discussed in Newcastle deserves a word of comment. Doctors and chemists were able to reach agreement on how best to deal with substances in short supply. The medical men agreed to take action in the matter of the present acute shortage of cotton wool, and the pharmacists persuaded them to refrain from prescribing orange preparations. Attention was also drawn by the chemists to the fact that olive and

arachis oils can now again be prescribed with reasonable freedom.

It may well prove that Newcastle has inaugurated a new era of co-operation between the medical and pharmaceutical professions.

Exports the First Need

FOR the past six or eight weeks we have been receiving a steadily increasing flow of inquiry from Empire and foreign buyers of pharmaceutical products, packed medicines, toilet preparations, cosmetics, soap and perfumery and all the other miscellaneous goods of the drug trade, asking to be put in touch with British makers or exporters in a position to offer these goods. These inquiries have made it abundantly clear that bulk quantities are urgently needed, and that there is a preference for goods of British make. There is at the present time inquiry for many thousands of pounds' worth of drug trade goods, and the volume is certain to increase in the immediate future. Yet, on the evidence before us, it is apparent that there has so far been no material increase in British shipments to overseas markets. More often than not, overseas buyers are having to be told that, for one reason or another, the goods are not available or that they cannot be exported. Actually, the strangle-hold on exports is as drastic today as it was under Lease-Lend conditions imposed by America during the period of the European war. The recent few cancellations of prohibition of export are a delusion; they have not, and in themselves cannot, facilitate the expansion of our general export trade. It serves no useful purpose to lift the ban on shipment of a few manufactured products unless the makers are also given freedom of access to supplies of raw materials and materials for packaging, and in other ways allowed unrestricted production for export.

We are aware that the fulfilment of British obligations in the prosecution of the war in the Far East is the first call on industry, and we appreciate that this is bound to impede a return to the full revival of normal industrial and trading activities. Nevertheless, now that vast quantities of war materials are no longer

required for Europe, it is not, we suggest unreasonable to expect that industry and commerce should be allowed the necessary conditions to direct some of their attention and activities to peace-time production particularly for export trade.

Control and direction, by war-time Ministries, of industry and the goods it consumes and produces was no doubt justified during the period of national emergency, but there is no justification for their continuance one single day after they have served their purpose. Labour continues to be directed; plant, machinery and buildings are still controlled or subject to licence; a wide range of basic raw materials and the production of many fully manufactured articles remain controlled, restricted or prohibited. All these barriers to production and trade were originally imposed for the purpose of prosecuting the European war, but, with a few minor exceptions, they are still with us today. Government departments continue acting as monopolistic trading concerns and the whole industrial and commercial structure of the country remains hidebound with Statutory Rules and Orders of a directive and restrictive character. It will, we agree, be necessary to continue price control until such time as supplies become normal and at least equal to the demand.

A Handicap to Manufacturers

Although not directly concerned with export trade, the purchase tax, if allowed to continue operating, will be a handicap to manufacturers competing for overseas business. This war-time levy on merchandise was primarily introduced to cut down spending at home and not for revenue producing purposes. It is imposed on an exceedingly wide range of manufactures the tax ranging up to 100 per cent. On most ordinary everyday necessities the tax charged is $16\frac{2}{3}\%$ or $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ per cent. This tax on consumer goods limits sales in the home market and restricts output generally, thus increasing costs of production. When the labour market returns to normal—and that should not be so very far ahead—the purchase tax, if persisted in, will be a decisive factor in creating unemployment.

The Limitation of Supplies Orders were purely a war-time necessity introduced chiefly for the purpose of economising in manpower and materials required for more urgent purposes. The Orders are in full operation and, so far, there has been no indication that they are to be cancelled or substantially modified. As the title indicates, this war-time control deliberately slows down home consumption and restricts employment. It is doing so today in some of our leading export industries, such as toilet preparations, cosmetics and perfumery. We are well aware that production for export is not directly affected by the Limitation of Supplies Orders, but manufacturers whose home trade continues to be restricted to one-eighth of their pre-war turnover are obviously handicapped in competing competitively for overseas trade.

Initial Post-war Orders

Manufacturers and exporters have the ability to gather in the present harvest of orders awaiting them in all parts of the world, but so long as they are tied down with war-time legislation and regulations, and their export activities controlled, directed and restricted on a total war basis by Government departments, they are not even able to quote for overseas business, let alone secure orders in keenly competitive markets. The importance of securing this initial post-war trade does not need to be emphasised, nor does the fact that if the business does not come to Britain it will go elsewhere.

Decisive action is equally as necessary now to enable industry to get back to something like peace-time production conditions for export, as it was in 1940 when the country was ruthlessly mobilised for total war production. All the social improvement schemes for better health, education and housing that have been planned, and the full employment of the people, depend on the country's ability at least to double the pre-war volume and value of exports of manufactured goods during the next ten years. That amount of world trade, and more, will be available. The outstanding scientific and technical achievements and enormous growth in output capacity in plant, equipment and

skilled personnel of British industry during the war years is a guarantee of its ability to compete in the world's markets in quality, price and quantity for this vital business. Export trade must be given first priority, and every obstruction to its development must be swept aside.

Research in South Africa

A BILL to establish a Scientific Research Council is now before the South African House of Assembly. Its exponents have rightly claimed that intensified research would have benefited the production of drugs and chemicals in the Dominion. To give point to the claim a Cape Town Member of Parliament who is professionally a medical practitioner stated in the House of Assembly that penicillin had been used by Cape housewives in 1805, when moulds from jams and other foodstuffs were used for healing wounds. A portion of the mould was inserted in the wound, which appeared to heal spontaneously, yet not until recent years did Professor Sir Alexander Fleming, working in the research laboratory at St. Mary's Hospital, London, discover that a specific mould, *Penicillium notatum*—from which penicillin is derived—had a fatal effect on certain germs. Properly organised research would have investigated this old Cape remedy, and would have been in a position to make discoveries at a much faster rate than has in fact been the case.

Another old Cape remedy was the use of the twigs of the weeping willow, which were boiled in water and the decoction used in conditions for which salicylates are now employed, as the result of researches in fields remote from South Africa. Under the stimulus of war conditions, mercury was produced in South Africa for the first time in 1941, yet South Africa is now producing enough mercury to be able to export a surplus. In view of these examples the call for a measure designed to co-ordinate research is seen to be as strong in South Africa as in European countries and the United States, and it may be expected that, when the Bill becomes law—and it is difficult to imagine any opposition to its proposals—South Africa will make its distinctive contribution to the accumulated scientific knowledge of the world.

NEWCASTLE CHEMISTS CONFER WITH DOCTORS

A JOINT meeting of the Newcastle District and Northumberland Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, Newcastle Branch of the National Pharmaceutical Union, and local Pharmaceutical Committee was held in Newcastle-on-Tyne on July 5, Mr. R. Hay (chairman, N.P.U. branch) presiding. A full confidential report of the London Joint Conference on a National Pharmaceutical Service was given by Mr. R. BARTLE. THE SECRETARY (Mr. W. R. Webster) reported on a meeting of the local liaison committee with the medical profession, his report meeting with the full agreement of members. The report of a special committee set up to study dispensing charges was given by MR. R. A. HUDSPITH, and it was decided that all prescriptions should be priced according to the N.P.U. price list, with no minimum charge, and that a copy of the list should be sent to every pharmacist in the area with a request that he should conform to it.

Meeting With Local Doctors

Mr. Webster's report of the meeting of the local liaison committee with the medical profession stated that Dr. M. Macnaughton had been appointed *Chairman* and himself *Secretary*. An agenda suggested by the pharmacists was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that all chemists should reserve an adequate supply of rationed items of preparations and drugs in short supply, in order to satisfy doctors' prescriptions and notes, and that the secretary should supply a list of such items and keep it up to date. The doctors agreed not to prescribe orange preparations, and to substitute syrupus for syrup. aurant. The medical men expressed themselves as very disturbed about the cotton wool position, and undertook to take up the matter with the panel committee and the British Medical Association. Attention was drawn by the chemists to the fact that doctors were now free to prescribe and order olive and arachis oils.

Full discussion took place on Schedule IV prescriptions, the question arising whether the chemist should repeat such prescriptions when the words "To be repeated" were printed at the foot of the script as part of the prescription form. It was decided that the injunction should be disregarded unless initialled by the prescriber, and that no Schedule IV prescription marked in this way should be dispensed more than three times. The doctors

undertook to see that the dose was always given on Schedule IV prescriptions, and to inform patients that non-repeat prescriptions for Schedule IV and Dangerous Drugs items were not returned to the patient. At the same time they asked pharmacists to make sure that all prescriptions that could be given back to patients were, in fact, returned. The question whether ordinary prescriptions should be repeated indefinitely or limited to a specified number of repeats was held over until the next meeting, to allow the doctors an opportunity to discuss this matter among themselves. There was unanimous agreement that, when proprietary items were ordered, all advertising matter, labels, etc. should be removed prior to handing the medicine to the patient, and that synthetic oestrogen preparations should be supplied only on prescriptions, with repeats restricted. It was decided to hold meetings every two months, and the meeting closed with refreshments provided by the doctors.

NEW BOOKS

Modern Cosmeticology.—Ralph G. Harry 8½ in. by 5½ in., pp. 432. 35s. Leonard Hill Ltd., 17 Stratford Place, London, W.1. This is the second edition of a book which has already taken a leading place amongst works on cosmetics. The volume is much more than a collection of formulas. The first chapter deals lucidly with the histology of the skin, its pigmentation and blemishes and suggests cosmetics appropriate for treatment. The remaining chapters form an encyclopædia of toilet preparation ranging from skin creams to baby products.

This Chemical Age.—William Haynes 8½ in. by 5½ in., pp. 288. 12s. 6d. Martin Secker & Warburg, Ltd., 7 John Street London, W.C.1. The author of this book who is a well-known American chemical writer, has taken the dry facts of industrial chemical history and moulded them into a story that can be read with enjoyment and profit by anyone interested in the why and wherefore of the things that represent modern living. The English edition is based on the revised and enlarged second American edition, and has had the advantage of being supervised by Dr. J. P. Lawrie. For a book of this description the text is singularly free from inaccuracy. Future editions, however, will have to omit the statement on p. 38 that "to this day no chemist has ever successfully synthesised quinine."

M.O.H. BULLETIN TO PHARMACISTS

THE following abstracts are taken from the Ministry of Health Bulletin to Pharmacists, issued by arrangement with the Pharmaceutical Society:—

Work of a Medical Officer of Health

THE work and responsibilities of a medical officer of health may be aptly compared to those of Gilbert's Poobah in "The Mikado," for many and various are the duties now attached to his office. One of the principal duties of the medical officer of health is to make an annual report to the Ministry of Health on the state of the health of his area.

The port medical service in most ports is controlled by the medical officer of health. His duties as port medical officer are to prevent the importation of infectious disease, unwholesome food and undesirable aliens, to prevent in fulfilment of this country's international health obligations the exportation abroad from this country of infectious disease, and to keep a watchful eye on the living conditions of the merchant seaman. With the development of air transport, his duties in these same matters will have to be extended to airports as well as seaports.

Infant mortality is commonly regarded nowadays as one of the most sensitive indices of the existence of health consciousness. In 1854 the infant mortality rate of Cardiff was 258 of every 1,000 born. Today, that rate fluctuates around fifty, an achievement which represents success in all three battles, of environment, of personal hygiene, and of medical services. The task of the medical officer of health and his fellow local government officials in the battle of environment has been, and is; to organise efficient drainage, sewerage, street cleansing and scavenging, to establish pure water supplies, to improve housing conditions, to strive towards the attainment of pure, wholesome and unadulterated food supplies, and to prevent disease.

The battle of personal hygiene arose at the turn of the century from the inauguration of the school medical service. Thoughtful persons turned from the urgent task of "patching up" to consider how the trouble came about. Obviously it had occurred during the first five years, some of it even before or during birth. Hence arose the idea that local authorities, through their medical officers of health, should provide for the care of the mother before, during

and after the birth of her child, and for the child until it reaches the age of school entry. To assist him in this interest he has school nurses at schools, at school clinics and visiting the homes.

This leads us to consideration of the third battle, the battle of medical services. The battle of environment has included arrangements for hospital treatment of infectious disease. The school medical officer has had to make arrangements for the hospital treatment of defective school children. As medical officer of health the same official has had to make arrangements for the institutional confinement and/or post-natal treatment for mothers, as well as for hospital treatment in some instances of toddlers. He may also be responsible for the medical care of toddlers at nursery schools and of "under twos" at day nurseries. Tuberculosis services, again under the medical officer of health, have been a blend of personal hygiene with hospital and medical services and with environmental hygiene (food and housing). But the real battle of medical and hospital services was joined through the application of the Local Government Act, 1929, which for the first time brought hospitals, the "transferred" poor-law hospitals, under the administration of the medical officer of health. In some areas the poor-law District Medical Officers, the poorest persons' free family doctors, also work under him—the shape, perhaps, of things to come in the "Beveridge" free medical service for all.

War has also added to the difficulties of the medical officer of health in the battle of environmental hygiene; normal food distribution and handling has been upset, and a blitzed town has had danger of typhoid epidemics through the bombing of adjacent sewers and water conduits, risking contamination by sewage of the latter. And war has brought a "flare-up" in the personal hygiene "front"; through the Scabies Order, which requires the medical officer of health to arrange for treatment, if necessary compulsorily, of scabies patients and their family contacts; through the Government-sponsored health (specially anti-V.D.) education campaign, and through the Government's concern for the care of premature and illegitimate children, these last of obvious importance in face of our threatened decline of population. Together with anti-V.D. propaganda the Government has also brought out a

scheme for partial notification of venereal disease, this again to be the responsibility of the medical officer of health, whose principal means of control of the other grave infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, is through an altogether sounder and more complete scheme of notification of individual cases to him by family doctors. Social workers for the problems of V.D. and illegitimacy have come on his staff, the Civil Defence Ambulance Service, metamorphosed as a "police-municipal ambulance service," looks like becoming his permanent peace-time responsibility, and obviously looming up ahead for the occupation of his "spare" time even before "Beveridge" involves him are schemes for the control of cancer and rheumatism, and for the vitamin assay of essential food-stuffs.

Importance of Pure Water Supplies

WATER, light, and air constitute the vital necessities for the maintenance of life. A plentiful supply of pure water is required for the health, comfort and enjoyment of mankind. Several outbreaks of cholera occurred between 1831 and 1866, but not until 1854 was it fully realised that cholera was spread by water. Dr. John Snow, after one of the most outstanding epidemiological investigations of all time, first showed the association between water and the spread of this disease. In consequence, we see the introduction of attempts to clean up water supplies and efforts made towards better sanitation.

The pioneer work of the first great sanitarian, William Chadwick, was continued by John Simon, who, as medical officer to the Privy Council, waged a vigorous campaign during the 1850's against filth in general and filthy water in particular. With the passing of the first Public Health Act in 1875 there was a country-wide overhaul of defective drains and a general improvement in methods of purifying water for domestic purposes. After the first rapid decline in typhoid mortality, there was a period punctuated by isolated outbreaks of the disease. Thus, late in the nineteenth century and continuing into the twentieth there was a series of outbreaks of water-borne typhoid fever, first at Worthing, then Maidstone, Lincoln, Bolton-upon-Deerne, Malton, and, within recent times, at Croydon. Science has shown us that typhoid fever is caused by a germ, and the disease is spread by certain persons who continue to harbour the

germs after recovery from the illness. These "carriers," as they are called, may come into contact with, and infect, a new supply, which, if not properly protected by efficient purification methods, may be the cause of an outbreak.

Constant care is taken to prevent unpollution of rivers by sewage and trade effluents. Gathering grounds of reservoirs and land in the vicinity of wells are carefully protected against pollution. Water pumped from rivers into huge man-made storage basins or may be accumulated in mountain lakes and impounding reservoirs. A process of self-cleansing takes place during storage; particulate matter is deposited and pathogenic germs and sewage organisms progressively disappear. Unfortunately these slowly moving volumes of water are ideal breeding-grounds for algae and detritus, which, harmless in themselves as a rule from the sanitary point of view, may impart unpleasant tastes and odours to the water and may cause undue blockage of filters employed in succeeding processes of purification. Copper sulphate is applied to reservoirs in doses of 0.5 to 2.0 parts per million for prevention and destruction of these plant infestations. The water then passes on to fine sand filters. The principal purpose of these beds is to act as bactericidal filters. The final stage in the purification of water before distribution is one of sterilisation by chlorine, ozone, or, occasionally, excess lime. In this country, the sterilisation most frequently employed is chlorine, either alone or in combination with ammonia.

The greatest care must be exercised by waterworks personnel to prevent accidental pollution of the supply by flooding, defective drains, cross-connexions, etc. The latter must be watched for particularly in the distribution system, where mains carrying drinking water may lie adjacent to fire mains carrying polluted water. It is very important to ensure that drinking water is free from harmful substances. The efficiency of each stage of purification and the final purity of the water are determined by analysis of samples of water drawn at strategic points on the works and from mains and consumers' premises. It can now be said with some degree of confidence that with modern methods of chemical treatment, waters carrying even gross contamination can be purified. That is to say, the water may be rendered safe to drink, but yet lack those physical qualities so much to be desired. Therefore, efforts are turning in modern times towards methods for the improvement of the physical qualities of

water. The majority of complaints received are of an æsthetic nature because the general public are quick to notice colour, turbidity and, more particularly, tastes, though all these are, in themselves, quite harmless. The properties of activated carbon as a taste remover are being exploited; colour and turbidity are being reduced by improved methods of coagulation and sedimentation. There is a growing tendency among the public to demand a filtered water, because it is more pleasant and economical in the consumption of soap.

Central Council for Health Education

MAN has survived for over two hundred and fifty thousand years. Throughout the ages, therefore, he must have displayed at least a working knowledge of the basic principles of healthy living, modifying his instinctive behaviour by trial and error. Fortunately great change has taken place in the last three or four generations. The technique of scientific investigation and experiment has been developed, and our store of health knowledge greatly increased. Until recently, however, we have tended to regard this knowledge as the private perquisite of the medical and nursing professions, to be used only as they thought fit. Consequently as a nation and as individuals we have failed to apply the discoveries of science to the fullest advantage. We have had lip service to the adage "Knowledge is power," but have forgotten that, like petrol in a tin, knowledge is useless until it is put to work.

Assisted by the Central Council for Health Education, the Ministry of Health is tackling the problem of nation-wide health education. At the headquarters in Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, the Central Council has an expert staff of doctors, educationists and biologists, a psychologist, and a sociologist—all of whom are making a special study of health education. The Central Council has spent tens of thousands of pounds on the production of health films, and loans them to local authorities free of charge. To assist local authorities in showing these films the Central Council has a number of cinematograph outfits and a staff of operators. Lectures and film shows are always arranged with the approval, and generally at the request, of the local medical officer of health or director of education. Any group of pharmacists wishing to have a course of lectures or a lecture or film show on some health topic should get in touch with the local medical officer of health.

TRADE WITH FRANCE

It is understood that the French Government is now prepared to grant, on the conditions mentioned below, licences for import, on private account, of spare parts and replacements for all types of machinery and equipment; other manufactured products in quantities less than 5 tons in weight and less than £5,000 in value (excluding industrial plant and machine tools and other specified items); seeds; books and publications.

Importers will apply in France to the appropriate authorities for import licences, and when these are issued will be able to obtain the foreign exchange necessary for the purchases. Exporters' attention is drawn to the fact that French import licences will only be granted in respect of goods required to meet the essential needs of France. Normal United Kingdom export-licensing procedure will apply to goods subject to licences on export under the Export of Goods (Control) Order, and applications should be made to the Export Licensing Department, 4 Fenchurch Avenue, London, E.C.3, either direct or through the usual channels for the goods concerned. Applications for shipping facilities must be made in duplicate, giving the usual information, and, in addition, the French import licence number. They should be addressed to the Commercial Counsellor to the French Embassy, 3 Albert Hall Mansions, London, S.W.7, and must be accompanied by two copies of the relevant invoices. One copy of the application, endorsed if necessary with the shipping priority, will be forwarded by the commercial counsellor to the "Service du Transit," French Purchasing Mission, 20 Queen Anne Street, London, W.1, and one copy of the invoice will be returned to the applicant, similarly endorsed. All other correspondence concerning shipment should be conducted direct between the applicant and the "Service du Transit" above mentioned.

Exports from France

Exporters are informed that goods should be consigned to Impex (for the importers' account) at port of unloading in France. The French Government is also prepared to issue licences to export from France on private account. As stated in the "Board of Trade Journal," April 21, the position with regard to private imports into the United Kingdom from France is in general similar to that with regard to imports on private account from other countries.

ADVANCES IN DISPENSING PRACTICE—I

DISPENSING practice has undergone considerable change during recent years, owing mainly to the following developments:—

1. Research in pharmacology, which has led to the introduction of new drugs and chemicals, e.g., mandelates, oestrogens and organic arsenicals.

2. Improved knowledge of the pharmacology of some of the older drugs and their applications in therapeutics, which calls for dispensing in a new or modified form, e.g., enteric-coated tablets of ammonium chloride and gentian violet, ergot preparations.

3. The modern tendency to treat diseases specifically with single drugs; this is associated with notable progress in chemotherapeutic research, which aims at synthesising the most suitable drug for a particular disease, e.g., sulphonamides, quinine substitutes.

A study of the introductory pages of the Addenda to the British Pharmacopœia and of the Supplements to the British Pharmaceutical Codex gives the pharmacist some idea of the extent of the above changes. It is found that the more familiar textbook types of incompatibility in prescriptions are relatively uncommon today. Several reasons may be advanced to account for this, such as the limited knowledge, on the part of the younger physicians, of the older materia medica and their consequent reliance upon the few drugs with which they are familiar. This state of affairs became more prevalent during the war, owing to the scarcity of many drugs and to their regimentation into set formulas. A recent report on prescribing in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" deplored the inability of the average medical practitioner to write prescriptions. The author criticised teachers of pharmacy who, he stated, "Invariably recommend complex mixtures for everything, whereas what should be taught the medical student is the simplest way of prescribing."

Prescribing of Proprieties

As pharmacists we may or may not concur with these conclusions which, of course, relate primarily to conditions in America, but all will deplore the high proportion of proprietary medicines ordered on prescription. A decline in such tendencies may eventually be achieved by greater co-operation between pharmacist and physi-

cian. Pharmacists now qualifying have received a basic training in physiology and pharmacology, and are therefore able to speak on equal terms with the doctor and to advise him on the suitability of drugs. The report of the Goodenough Committee (H.M. Stationery Office, 1944) on the training of medical students emphasises the need for systematic and scientific teaching on the action and uses of drugs, and recommends that pharmacists should assist in such teaching. In this and succeeding articles it is proposed to provide retail pharmacists with information on dispensing problems associated with the more recently introduced drugs.

Pharmacy Layout

The considered opinion of many pharmacists is that, in order to counter the development of public health-centre dispensaries, the shop pharmacist must provide a comprehensive dispensing service. For this need to be met, some attention must be given to the layout, equipment and apparatus of the dispensing department. The provision of a separate waiting-room should be unnecessary in most pharmacies, but the question must be determined by circumstances and experience. In a pharmacy where the majority of patients desire to wait for their medicine, it may be found that business is impeded by a row of chairs within the shop. Where this is the position, a separate waiting-room may be called for.

It must be admitted that the facilities provided by some pharmacists for the practice of their craft leave much to be desired when viewed in the light of modern standards. Pharmacy is an ancient profession, and many shops seem to reflect, by the small amount of alteration that has been effected in their structure, this aspect rather than the expansion and development which have taken and are taking place. In this connexion, considerable improvement may be seen in some of the shops of the company chemists, built just prior to the war. Largely on account of limited space, dispensing in some of the older pharmacies is done behind either a screen or showcards along part of the counter, or at one end of the shop, from which compounding may or may not be visible to the customer. In a small number of establishments a separate room is used. Only a minority of replies to the questionnaire published in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* (March 25, 1944,

333) favoured an "open-type" dispensary. To improve working conditions, extensive structural alterations may not be necessary, but every effort should be made to ensure cleanliness and efficiency. Great improvement in the food counters of grocery shops has been noticeable in recent years, and it should not be difficult for chemists to give their dispensing counters something of the same strikingly hygienic appearance. Where space permits, an ideal dispensary would be a separate room adjoining the shop. At a suitably high level to prevent observation, a plate-glass screen would indicate the dispensing department. The pharmacist who is fortunate enough to have such facilities will no doubt be able to exercise his imagination to the full in design and equipment in the post-war years.

Drug containers should be uniform, and their use might be made of glass-fronted

sliding cupboards to house the numerous "small" and keep them free from dust. The tendency to pile stocks above the dispensary shelves to a high level should be resisted, because bottles out of reach tend to be left to collect dust, while remaining equally as visible to customers as those at normal levels. Bottle washing should be done outside the dispensary. No hard-and-fast rule can be given for the allocation of bench space until the volume of work required is known, but it is probable that provision will have to be made for more than one dispenser. Rather than give a list of equipment that may or may not be required in any particular pharmacy appropriate apparatus for dispensing the prescriptions to be discussed in subsequent articles will be suggested. The proposed Pharmacy Board may, of course, draw up minimum requirements according to the size of the pharmacy and the needs of the immediate community.

HEAD-LICE TREATMENTS

REVIEW of new and old methods of dealing with pediculosis capitis was given by Scobbie in the "British Medical Journal" (1945. I. 10). The ideal substance is described as one which would kill all lice and nits immediately, or, failing that, kill all lice immediately and remain in the hair during the incubation period of the nits, killing all the larvae as they hatch out. Some substances in common use were found ineffective or monstrously inferior as insecticides and insecticides, any success obtained by their use being due principally to mechanical removal of lice by careful tooth-combing. D.D.T. emulsion and Lethane hair-oil are regarded as the two insecticides of value, the former being preferred because a single treatment, properly carried out, is usually sufficient to cure every case. The substance, however, will not be available for civilian use until after the war. Lethane cures a large proportion of cases in one application, while two treatments at an interval of a week provide a certain cure if the details of application are carefully observed. Two or three teaspoonfuls are used at an application. The hair is parted, and two or three drops applied to the scalp from a pipette. This is repeated in twelve to twenty different places all over the scalp, which is then thoroughly rubbed for two minutes to ensure equal distribution of the oil. Any oil which trickles down the forehead or behind the ears should be wiped off and soft paraffin applied. Lethane does not persist so long as D.D.T. emulsion, and some larvae which

hatch out towards the end of the first week after treatment may survive. No toxic reaction or irritation of the scalp or skin occurs after using either Lethane or D.D.T. emulsion. The following substances proved ineffective in the tests: 20 per cent. Dettol; inf. quass. conc.; formalin soap mixture (M.O.H. Memorandum, 1940); 0.1 per cent. aqueous mercuric chloride; lauryl thiocyanate; and oils of cedarwood, citronella and lemongrass. Lysol (2 per cent.) was effective against nits and safe to use in that concentration. Ascabiol, sassafras oil, and carbolic solutions came next in order of efficiency, but none gave a 100 per cent. kill.

COMING EVENTS

Monday, July 16

INSTITUTE OF EXPORT, Assembly Hall, Royal Empire Society Building, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2, at 1.15 p.m. Mr. A. J. Broughton (Irish traffic manager for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway) on "Anglo-Irish Trade Relations."

Wednesday, July 18

BATH BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Insurance Committee Offices, 9 Kingston Buildings, at 7.30 p.m. Discussion on a proposal to form a standing committee of non-proprietary pharmacists.

Sunday, July 22

MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. Ramble to Hathersage, Bretton Clough and Hope. Meet Central Station, 8.40 a.m. Book Hathersage return.

TRADE REPORT

Spot quotations for pharmaceutical chemicals, crude drugs and essential oils represent the prices for wholesale quantities of standard quality. C.i.f. quotations do not include marine war risk insurance and other abnormal charges payable in the present emergency.

28 Essex Street, W.C.2, July 11

THE "standstill" tendency has again been in evidence in the drug markets, and it is not considered likely that any improvement in business will occur until after the General Election results have been declared. Considerable inquiries are being received for goods for export, but little business can be done during the present transitional period owing to shortage of supplies and restrictions on trade. The need for increased export business, however, overrides most other considerations, and it is obvious that a move to ensure more business in this direction cannot be long delayed. No alterations have been announced during the week in the prices of PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMICALS, in which a steady trade is being done.

Crude Drugs

Business in CRUDE DRUGS has again been confined to filling small orders for the home trade at prices not greatly different from those quoted during recent weeks. Cape ALOES is still unobtainable, and the Curaçao variety is in small supply. Small supplies of BALSAM TOLU are expected in the near future. Some English BELLADONNA HERB may be obtained on spot. Although CASCARA SAGRADA is wanted, no offers can be obtained at present, and it is reported from the source that the home market will receive the first supplies. No shipments of CASCARILLA have yet been made, though the drug is in good request. The recent upward tendency in CLOVES appears to have ended, though the present price is firm, with only limited supplies available. Other spices have remained rather quiet. Brazilian MENTHOL is in good demand, and a parcel of Chinese is reported sold at a price not greatly in excess of the Brazilian. NUTMEGS are rather scarce on the spot. SENEGA prices are hard to obtain, and the crop is reported small. Supplies of VALERIAN ROOT from Belgium are expected.

Essential Oils

A review of the ESSENTIAL OILS markets yields little information of interest, on account of restricted activities resulting from lack of supplies. Oils outside the scope of the Control scheme are now in negligible supply.

Pharmaceutical Chemicals

ASPIRIN.—Prices per lb., for lots of 28 lb. 1 cwt., are as follows (containers in brackets): 4s. 1d. (1-lb.); 3s. 11½d. (4-lb.); 3s. (7-lb.); 3s. 10d. (14-lb.). Terms net one month.

BORAX.—Current rates per ton are as follows: B.P. quality, granulated, £38; crystal, powder, £39 10s. Commercial grades, £8 ton less. Packed in one-cwt. bags, delivery carriage paid in Great Britain in one-ton lots and upwards.

CAFFEINE.—Quantities of 7 lb. to 28 lb. quoted per lb., as follows (supplies subject to D.M.S. approval): ALKALOID, B.P., 23s.; CITRATE, 23s.; SODIUM BENZOATE, 23s.

DEXTROSE.—Current prices per lb., in lots of 28 lb.—1 cwt., are as follows (containers in brackets): 1s. 2½d. (1-lb.); 1s. 1½d. (2-lb.); 1s. ¾d. (4-lb.); 11½d. (7-lb.); 11½d. (14-lb.); 10½d. (28-lb.).

DIAMORPHINE.—Current rates per oz., small quantities, are as follows: BASE.—½ oz., 58s. 6d.; 1 oz., 56s.; 2 oz., 54s. 6d.; 3 oz., 53s. 9d.; 4 oz., 53s. 6d. HYDROCHLORIDE.—½ oz., 54s. 3d.; 1 oz., 51s. 9d.; 2 oz., 50s. 3 oz., 49s. 6d.; 4 oz., 49s. 3d.

EMETINE.—British importers' prices are as follows: EMETINE HYDROCHLORIDE, U.S. 16 oz., 175s. 6d.; 4 oz., 178s.; 1 oz., 178s. per oz. EMETINE BISMUTH IODIDE, B.P. (Brazilian origin), 16 oz., 85s. 6d.; 4 oz., 87s.; 1 oz., 88s. 6d. per oz.; usual terms.

LACTATES.—Prices are as follows: LACTIC ACID.—Six-winchester lots, 3s. per lb.; small quantities, 3s. 1d. CALCIUM LACTATE.—Small quantities, 2s. 5d. per lb. CALCIUM SODIUM LACTATE.—Powder, small lots, 3s. 7d. per 14-lb., 3s. 4d.; 28-lb., 3s. 2d.; granular, penny per lb. extra.

MAGNESIUM CARBONATE, LIGHT.—Market prices per lb., in quantities of 28 lb.—1 cwt., are as follows (containers in brackets): 1s. 3½d. (1-lb.); 1s. 2d. (4-lb.); 1s. 1d. (6-lb.); 1s. ¾d. (14-lb.); 1s. (28-lb.). Prices net one month.

METHYL SALICYLATE.—Continues in good demand at unchanged prices. Smalls, 2s. per lb.; winchesters, 2s. 1½d.; 56 lb., in demijohns, 2s.; 1 cwt., in demijohns or carboys, 1s. 11½d.; 5 cwt., 1s. 11d. All prices net.

PHENOLPHTHALEIN.—Current rates are as follows: Less than 7 lb., 4s. 8d. per lb.; 7 lb. to 14 lb., 4s. 7d.; 14 lb., 4s. 6d.; 28 lb., 4s. 5d.; 1 cwt., 4s. 4d.

THEOBROMINE.—The following prices are ruling: ALKALOID.—Smalls, 44s. 6d. per lb.; 7 lb.—28 lb., 43s. SODIUM SALICYLATE.—Smalls, 26s. 6d.; 7 lb.—28 lb., 25s. 1d. Tins extra when supplied.

Crude Drugs

ALOE.—Cape is unobtainable. Curaçao, in limited supply.

ANTIMONY.—Demand continues, with prices changed. English minimum 99 per cent. gulus, £112 10s. per ton, delivered; crude, per cent., £90.

ARECA NUTS.—Dealers' prices for wormy ylon are steady at 85s. per cwt.

BALSAMS.—*Peru* is at 8s. per lb., and *Canada* 11s. 6d. Small supplies of *Tolu* are expected.

BELLADONNA.—English herb is quoted at 6d. per lb. Indian root, testing 0.25 per cent., would be worth 2s. 3d. per lb.

BISMUTH.—Metal continues in good demand 6s. 3d. per lb., in minimum 5-cwt. lots.

CARDAMOMS.—Quiet and unchanged. Aleppy pens, 5s. 6d. per lb.; Aleppy seed, 6s. 3d.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—No offers are being obtained. It is reported from the source that st supplies will go to the home market.

CASCARILLA.—Supplies are wanted, but no shipments have been made.

CHAULMOOGRA.—*Hydnocarpus*, spot, 2s. per lb., in tins in cases.

CHILLIES.—Mombasa, quoted on spot at 6s. per cwt., and West African at 105s.

CINNAMON CHIPS.—Quoted on spot at 2s. 3d.

CLOVES.—Very firm. Zanzibar, spot, 1s. 9½d., th offers small.

COCHINEAL.—Silvers, spot, 6s. per lb.

COCOA BUTTER.—Price is fixed at 1s. 5½d. r lb., ex factory or warehouse, except for les made under Ministry of Food licence.

COLOCYNTH.—Good white continues to be oted on spot at 2s. 9d. per lb.

DIGITALIS LEAVES.—Portuguese, spot, 140s. r cwt.; English, 2s. 6d. per lb.

ERGOT.—Scarce, with any available good-ality priced at 6s. 6d. per lb.

GINGER.—African, spot, 85s. per cwt.

GUM ACACIA.—Kordofan cleaned sorts, spot, s.; bleached, 175s.; Talha, cleaned, 47s. 6d.

HENBANE.—Indian is quoted at 230s. per vt., Russian at 350s., Egyptian (*muticus*) at 75s.

JALAP.—Small supplies of Vera Cruz testing out 12 per cent. would be worth 4s. 6d. per lb.

KAMALA.—Material testing 6 per cent. ash priced at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per lb., on spot.

LIQUORICE ROOT.—Turkish, afloat, 85s. per vt., landed, for pharmaceutical purposes only.

MENTHOL.—Brazilian continues in good mand at 82s. 6d. per lb. A parcel of Chinese reported to have made 90s. on the market.

MERCURY.—Official quotations range from 58 10s. to £69 15s. per flask, according to nditions and quality, with higher prices for maller lots and redistilled grades.

MYRRH.—Fair Aden sorts would fetch about 16 per cwt. on spot.

NUTMEGS.—West Indian, sound unassorted,

spot, scarce at 2s. 10½d. per lb.; wormy and broken, 2s. 3d.

NUX VOMICA.—Cochin, spot, 37s. 6d. to 40s. per cwt.; shipment, 31s. to 32s., c.i.f.

PEPPER.—Whole, not picked over or cleaned, on sale to processors, is officially priced at 1s. 4d. per lb. for white and 1s. per lb. for black.

PIMENTO.—Quoted on spot at 1s. 3½d. per lb.

SENEGA.—Crop is reported abnormally small and prices are difficult to obtain.

SENNA.—Alexandrian hand-picked pods are scarce; price nominal at 4s. per lb. Good manufacturing Alexandrian pods, 2s. per lb. Tinnevely pods and leaves are unchanged.

STRAMONIUM LEAVES.—Dealers continue to quote 80s. per cwt., spot.

STROPHANTHUS.—Kombé seed steady on spot at 7s. 6d. per lb.

TRAGACANTH.—Medium grades are quoted as follows: No. 1, white, £130 per cwt.; No. 2, white, £115; No. 3, white, £100; No. 4, white, £85; pale leaf, £60; amber leaf, £50; dark amber, £40; brown leaf, £30; red-and-brown leaf, £25; red leaf, from £20; hoggy, £12 to £15.

TURMERIC.—Sound-quality Madras finger, 70s. per cwt., spot, Liverpool; 72s. 6d., London.

VALERIAN ROOT.—Supplies are soon likely to be available from Belgium.

WAXES.—**BEES'.**—Prices of crude for the home trade were given in the *C. & D.*, June 2, p. 570. **CARNAUBA.**—Fatty grey, spot, 490s.; chalky grey, spot, 480s.; prime yellow, spot, 590s. **OURICURI.**—Spot, 310s. to 320s., according to impurities; shipment, 285s., c.i.f.

Essential and Expressed Oils

CASTOR.—Bulk supplies are officially quoted as follows: "Firsts," £82 per ton, "seconds," £80, both naked ex works.

CLOVE.—English distillers' prices are unchanged at from 12s. 6d. to 13s. per lb., according to quantity.

COCONUT.—Crude is officially priced at £49 per ton; refined deodorised, £49; and refined hardened deodorised, £53, for bulk supplies.

COTTONSEED.—Controlled prices for bulk supplies are as follows: Crude, £52 2s. 6d.; washed, £55 5s.; refined edible, £57; refined deodorised, £58 per ton; all varieties are quoted naked ex works.

NUTMEG.—Small supplies of English oil may be obtained at around 45s. per lb.

OLIVE (EDIBLE).—The price charged to the wholesaler by the importer is 25s. 9d. per gallon, ex store. Prices charged by wholesalers to retailers are agreed by the Ministry of Food as follows: 33s. 6d. per gallon, in 1-gallon loan cans; 34s. 3d. per gallon, in ½-gallon loan cans; 35s. per gallon, in 1-quart loan cans; 36s. per gallon, in 1-pint loan cans.

PIMENTO BERRY.—Small lots of English oil would be worth around 80s. per lb.

RAPESEED.—Official quotation is unchanged at £88 per ton, in bulk lots, naked ex works.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mistaken Identity

SIR,—You may be interested to know that an old-fashioned cork presser has been offered for sale in a Yorkshire second-hand shop marked "antique door-knocker."

Yours faithfully,
OBSERVER.

West of Ireland Association

SIR,—Your report of a meeting of West of Ireland chemists (*C. & D.*, June 23, p. 627), under the heading "Sligo Pharmacists form a Branch," suggests that we here in Sligo have been solely responsible for the formation of the "West of Ireland Chemists' Association." Such is not the case, as chemists from all over the province of Connaught co-operated. The new provincial association includes the Ulster County of Donegal as well as the five Counties of Connaught, and it is planned in the immediate future to organise county associations in areas where, owing to transport difficulties, none exists at present. The major credit must go to the Mayo Association, as being the prime movers in consolidating the West, in which already several real live County Associations already flourish.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. MULREANY,
Joint Secretary.

Sligo.

Embossed Ointment Jars

SIR,—I had in my possession twenty-five 4-lb. ointment jars identical with those belonging to Mr. T. R. Perkins (*C. & D.*, June 30, p. 661). I gave three away to collectors. I also had six smaller ones which were just large enough to hold an empty 4-oz. tin of tobacco; as the label had been obliterated I repainted one of them *Fol. Tabac. Varios*. The jars at one time belonged to the retail shop of T. & H. Smith, Ltd., Edinburgh. I did not know that there were any in England, but believe there were a few in Mr. Jack's shop in Arbroath. I append a list of the original labels, still legible. The metal lids appear to have had a wreath of leaves in gold round the base. *Ung. Gall. c. Opio; Ol. Palmæ; U. Plumb. Subac.; Jujub. Cryst.; Ung. Hydr. Nit.; Ung. Hyd. M.; Adeps. Benz.; Ung. Zinci; Pomatum; Ung. Hyd. Nit. M.; Cremor. Frig.; Ung. Potass. Iodid.; Ung. Sulphur.; Ung. Resino.; Ung. Cetacei; Sinap. Dur.; Adeps. Prep.*

Yours faithfully,
Edinburgh. J. GORDON NICHOLSON.

TRADE MARKS

(From "The Trade Marks Journal," June

"NELAGARDIA"; for essential oils, perfumery cosmetics, toilet preparations, mo washes, etc. (3). By Stafford Allen & Sons Ltd., Wharf Road, London, N.1. 634,067. Device of five greyhounds racing with w "Fives" (disclaimed), "Products and Sure" beneath; for perfumes, cosmetic toilet preparations, sachets for waving l (3), also device of woman's profile in sc work for all goods (5); and for con brushes (21). By Lennard, Lee Narvil Co., Ltd., 216 Anlaby Road, Hull. 633,8 634,123 (Associated), 634,124.

"AIRKEM"; for preparations for deodor and freshening the air (5). By Airkem, I c/o Stevens, Langner, Parry & Rollin 5-9 Quality Court, Chancery Lane, Lond W.C.2. 630,335.

"RHEUMAGIC"; for chemical substances p pared for use in the treatment of rheumat (5). By Pickups, Ltd., 1-3 Smedley Str London, S.W.8. 630,381 (Associated).

"VIVATONE"; for toilet preparations for hair (3). By H. A. Brockwell, 156 Leagr Road, Luton, Beds. 633,562.

"LUTOFORM"; for pharmaceutical preparati of progesterone for human use (5). The British Drug Houses, Ltd., 16 Graham Street, City Road, London, N 633,487.

"PAROX"; for dental root dressings and der fillings (5). By Associated Dental Produ Ltd., Kemdent Works, Cricklade Ro Purton, nr. Swindon. 633,517.

"ALVONIS"; for all goods (5). By The W come Foundation, Ltd., Euston Ro London, N.W.1. 633,565.

"ESODIS"; for pharmaceutical preparati disinfectants and antiseptics (5). By South Laboratories, Ltd., 88 Upper Richm Road, London, S.W.15. 633,619 (Assoc ted).

"AORTAGENE"; for pharmaceutical prepa tions for cardiac ailments (5). By Cam Chemical Co., Ltd., Northington Stre London, W.C.1. 634,098.

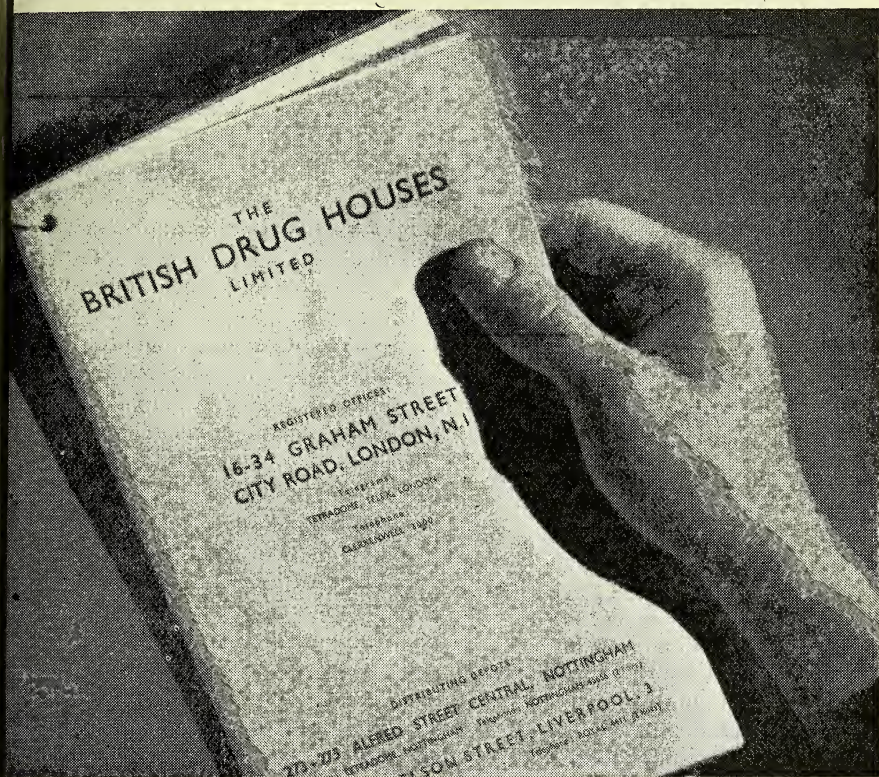
"ELMO"; for all goods (8). By Osborne, G rett & Co., Ltd., 51-54 Frith Street, So London, W.1. 634,068 (Associated).

"ADDOLITE"; for lighting apparatus for ind photography, etc. (11). By H. Jacobs Co., 70 Charlotte Street, London, W B631,565.

"HESCO" and "HESCOLUX"; for hair dry appliances, etc. (11). By Hornby Electric Supplies Co., Ltd., 21-25 St. Anne's Cou London, W.1. 633,991-93 (both Associate

"NERO"; for toilet paper, etc. (16). By Wesley, Ltd., Harlesden Stationery Mil Acton Lane, London, N.W.10. 633,433.

Cross device (with colour restriction) and wor "CARUS PRODUCT"; for bandage clot surgical cloth, gauze, etc. (24). By A. Car & Sons, Ltd., Hoddlesden Mills, Johns Road, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Lancs. 629,6 (Associated).



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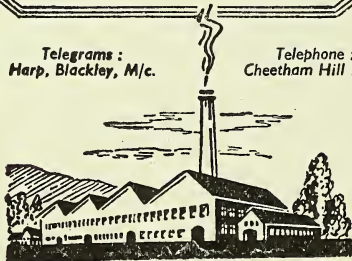
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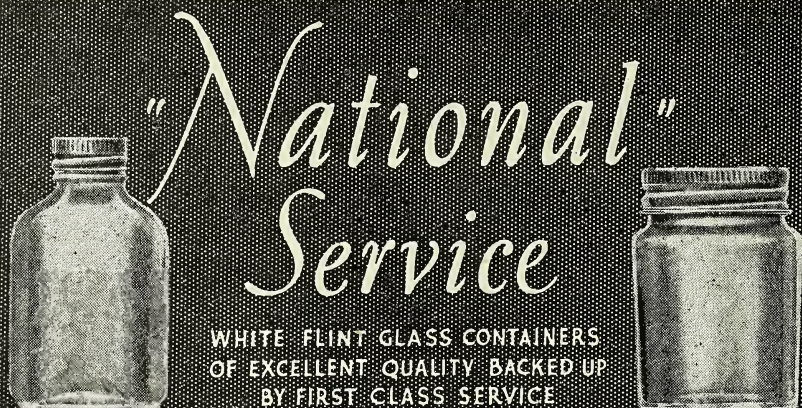
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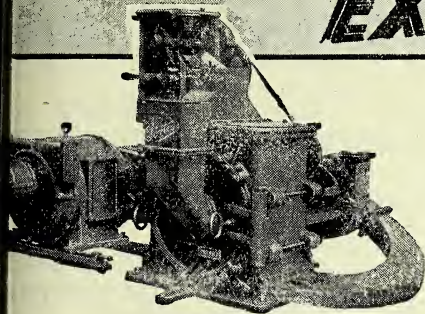
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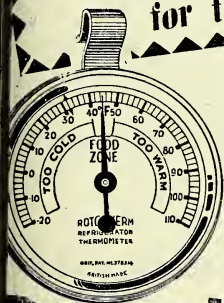
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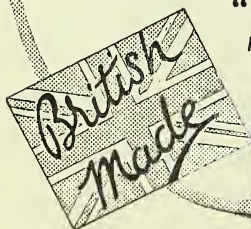
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Even when all lighting restrictions are removed customers will be doing this—unless PLANNED LIGHTING as conceived by Siemens is used.

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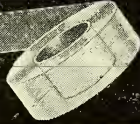
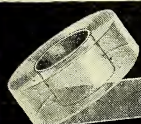
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The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

SUPPLEMENT

This Supplement is inserted in every copy of The Chemist & Druggist

JULY 14
1945

28 FSEEX STREET, LONDON, W.C.2

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QUALIFIED and Unqualified Assistants, exempt from military service; partly wholesale; no Sunday duty. Apply, Shadforth Prescription Service, Ltd., Mitre Works, Cordova Road, Bow, London, E.3.

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EXPERIENCED Representatives to cover clients in various vacant territories in England and Scotland. The product is an international famous, nationally advertised, proprietary medicine which is in ready demand. Salary, commission and expenses. Permanency. Car essential. Writing ability, career to date, and all relevant particulars. 615/188, C. & D. London Office.

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SITUATIONS WANTED

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